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Shock tactics after poll blow

## Major tells of 'midsummer nightmare'

By Philip Webster **POLITICAL EDITOR** 

JOHN MAJOR acknowledged the prospect of general election defeat last night in a high-risk gamble intended to shock former Tory voters into facing up to the alleged dangers of a Labour government.

The Prime Minister said in Scotland that Britain could be just weeks away from a "midsummer nightmare", predicting that a victorious Labour would use a Budget soon after the election to put up taxes and interest rates and to blame the Tories for it. And in an ITN interview, Mr Major said: "If opinion does not change, then we are going to have a Labour

Launching a desperate lightback after the disaster of Wirral South, Mr Major and the Tory high command began an unprecedented eightweek blitz to highlight the risks of Blair rule, including higher taxes and spending, lost jobs and the break-up of the United Kingdom. It was a deliberately bleak assessment of the Tory plight, described by one senior strategist as a

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, promised that the Tories would spend every minute between now and the election waking this country up to the risks they will run and the danger they will suffer

from a Labour government". One of Mr Major's most trusted ministerial colleagues privately was even more blunt about the Tory approach to the voters. "We are going to scare them", he said.

But the new strains on Conservative unity were swiftly apparent as John Redwood, the defeated leadership con-



CTo accuse Mr Heseltine of being a prey to ambition seems neither novel nor unfair?



The problem is John Major has a Cabinet of chums and they can't say no to each other?

tender, attacked a recent Cabinet disagreement over the single currency and confusion over who is responsible for tive message.

McAlpine, Weekend

In an intervention that surprised MPs asnd infuriated Tory chiefs, Mr Redwood called on Mr Major to say

the party chairman, or Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, was leading the campaign. "The party needs to know who is in charge of the message and communication. The Prime Minister needs that one person to put it across robustly. There are sometimes confusing messages and we need to unite behind one." He added they could not "afford more slips of the kind we saw during this by-election campaign when we had the Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor disagreeing in

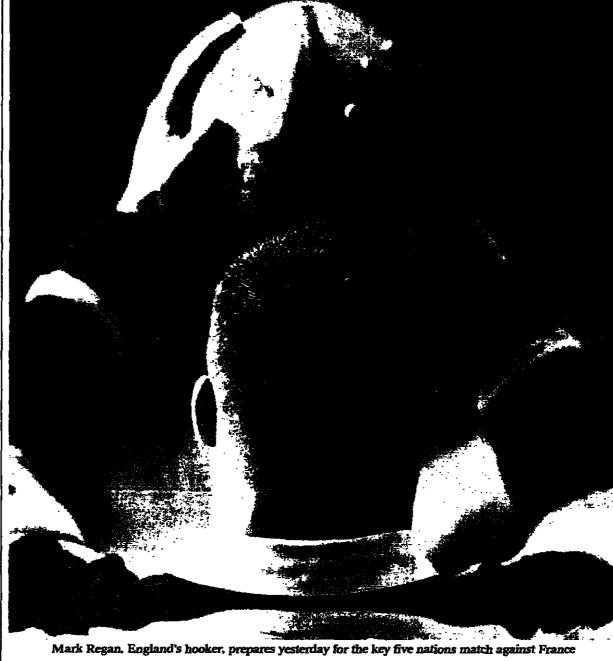
Mr Redwood's criticism prompted a swift retort from Mr Heseltine. He said: "The fact is that Brian Mawhinney is in charge at Central Office Anyone on the inside within the Conservative Party mach-ine knows that is the position." All the efforts to downplay expectations failed to hide the

dismay in Tory ranks yesterday at the scale of Labour's triumph and the mountain facing Mr Major is he is to recover by May I.

The Tory 8,000 majority was wiped out and replaced by

Chapman. The swing to Labour of 17.2 per cent was higher than that indicated by all recent opinion polls. Most disturbing of all for the Conservatives was the 5,300 rise in the Labour vote since 1992. It was hard for the Tories, therefore, to portray it as a protest vote because people changed sides to vote positively for Labour. The Liberal Democrats were able to take satisfaction from the result, sur-Continued on page 2, col 6

> Pray for Labour, page 2 Leading article, page 25



AND DAVID HANDS

## French cockerel watch

VETS armed with nets will be at Twickenham this afternoon to catch the cockerels which are traditionally released by visiting French fans during the five nations rugby union match against England. It is feared that the unoffi-

fowl pest or come to harm ztions are taken. The Rugby Football Union has accepted an offer from the Trading Standards and Veterinary Services of the Corporation of London to send a team to catch the cockerels. In previous years, some of the 1,000 stewards have had to seize the birds, smuggled into the ground under the jackets of the French and then released on to the pitch. However, Keith Webster,

yesterday: "We are very good at catching streakers but cockerels are a different matter This is why we have accepted the offer. We do not want the match interrupted, the birds harmed or anyone contravening the law."

Rugby preview, pages 54, 56

## **NatWest** facing £50m loss over City dealings

By Robert Miller banking correspondent NATWEST, the largest high street clearing bank, was last night forced to put aside £50 million to cover losses in the highly volatile derivatives market.

The announcement was made after the stock market had closed to prevent a fall in the bank's share price. NatWest Markets, the securities trading arm of the bank, said it had discovered "mispricing errors in the interest rate options book".

Interest rate options are instruments used to limit or cap potential loss-making positions in the event of volatile movements in world interest

NatWest, which this week disclosed a fall in 1996 profits to El.1 billion from El.8 billion. said: "A senior trader has been suspended for failure to supervise, pending the conclusion of

an internal inquiry."

The City's watchdog for brokers, the Securities and Futures Authority, and the Bank of England, which regulates banks, have been informed.

Inquiries by The Times have established that the trader who left the firm is Kyriacos Papouis. He now works for Bear Stearns, a US securities house. The senior trader who has been suspended is be-lieved to be Neil Dodgeson.

signed as chairman of Kleinwort Benson, the City merchant bank owned by the German Dresdner Bank, because he was overruled in his wished to have headquarters control in London rahter than Frankfurt.

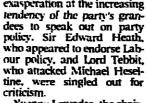
Business news, pages 29, 32

## Grandees told 'stop sniping'

By Andrew Pierce and Polly Newton THE Conservative Party's

senior constituency workers vesterday accused Cabinet ministers and party grandees of indiscipline, disloyally, and self-indulgence as a wave of over the Wirral South result. A survey by The Times of 10 chairmen of constituency par-

ties where there is a sitting Cabinet minister revealed deep despair at the continuing differences over Europe being ained in public. There was herely concealed contempt over some ministers running



Yvonne Lowndes, the chairman of Peterborough Conservatives, the constituency of Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, led the criticism. She said: "Some senior Tories deserve a sharp slap on the wrist. If the party does not

thinly disguised leadership unite, and soon, we will most campaigns. They expressed certainly lose the election and exasperation at the increasing we will deserve to lose it." The criticism in The Spectator of Michael Heseltine by

Lord Tebbit, who still has a strong personal following among Tory activists, dismayed Conservative Central Office, It triggered a furious response in Mr Heseltine's Henley-on-Thames Conservaheadquarters. Maggie Pullen, the chairwoman, said: Frankly, I am fed-up with these old grandees making life difficult for us. If it is down to

Continued on page 2, col 8

## Clinton calls in anguish

President Clinton has been making anguished late-night calls to fellow Democrats urging them not to betray him over the fundraising scandal. The President is angered by demands for an independent rosecutor to investigate foreign contributions to his campaign, and his turning the White House into America's best bed-and-breakfast ...Page 18

The Times on the Internet http://www.the-times.co.uk

## Smiley and 'Karla' enjoy a cosy chat

DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

IOHN Le Carré met his Karla last night, when the author who brought the spies in from the cold met the man who ran Moscow Centre during the years when the walls came tumbling down\_ Yevgeni Primakov, the Rus-

sian Foreign Minister and former head of the foreign intelligence bureau that took over from the KGB, invited the creator of George Smiley to supper in the Russian Embassy for a conspiratorial tête-a-tête. On the table was an autographed copy of the final triumph over Karla: Smiley's People, which finally brings Karla over the Glieneke Bridge to West

Mr Primakov, whose agents once burrowed their ways into the Western intelligence



Le Carre: kind words for a spymaster

secrets and who is now visiting the citadels of Western power to warn against Nato expansion, has a keen palate for spy liction. It was fitting therefore, that as he sat down lunch with Malcolm Rifking following a morning's bargaining, the Foreign Secre-



Primakov: hoping for a better world

tary produced a copy of Smiley's last adventure. "To Yevgeni Maksimovich Primakov," Mr Le Carré had written inside. "With my sin-cere good wishes and in the hope that we may share a far better world than the one described here." Mr Le Carré when he was plain David Cornwell, he served in the Bonn Embassy where he also penetrating the shady world of British intelligence. Hours later the two met face to face when Mr Le Carré stepped across the threshold of

13 Kensington Palace Gardens - for the first time, according to Embassy records - to shake hands with Anatoli Adamishin, the Amhassador and the bespectacled sphinxlike figure of Mr Primakov.

Mr Primakov had also earli-er appealed for a better world, - one where Nato called a moratorium to its enlargement plans — and where Western statesmen no longer plotted to thwart closer links between Russia and its former republics.

Nato bargaining, page 17 Leading article, page 25



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## THE McALPINE MEMOIRS 'Whenever I met John Major at Chequers, he was just hanging around like a pair of curtains'

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**FIVE NATIONS RUGBY ENGLAND v FRANCE** 

Who will go through to the grand slam?



## Army's soft-sell press gangs persuade with a pint

By Alan Hamilton

THE Army is to tackle its acute manpower shortage by resorting to the recruiting tactics of the Napoleonic wars. Serving soldiers will be dispatched into the alchouses of their home towns with orders to enlist young men by offering them a pint of beer and a chat about the joys of military life. The Ministry of Defence has promised that this time no King's Shilling will be hidden at the bottom of the glass. More than 300 soldiers from 1st

Battalion, the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, will operate in teams of four, visiting 88 pubs in 15 Midlands towns, including Derby, Nottingham, Worcester, Redditch, Buxton, Newark and Chesterfield. They will be furnished with a kitty and told to engage men of their own age in conversation and to buy them a drink if they show interest in the military life.

The Army is short of 5,000 men, mainly in infantry, artillery and armoured regiments. The novel approach of the Worcesters, who are

themselves largely up to strength but still need 100 recruits a year, will be watched closely by other regiments with much more severe manpower

Major John Cotterill, who is in command of the Worcesters' recruiting, said yesterday he was reverting to the methods of 200 years ago, when barracks did not exist, and the inns in which soldiers were billeted proved a fruitful source of recruits

"In those days, soldiers led by a recruiting sergeant would buy boys

a pint of foaming ale and leave a King's Shilling in the bottom of the glass. Once the prospective recruit had finished his pint he was deemed to have accepted the King's Shilling. or enlistment bounty, and the next thing he knew, he had been whisked away on a troopship to fight Napoleon," Major Cotterill said.

The regiment insists that it will not be kidnapping anyone this time. The idea was not to ply people with drink, knock them over the head and carry them away. Nor would the soldiers be showering their largesse upon all and sundry: they would be buying beer rather than whicky, on the grounds that the time it takes to knock back a Scotch is hardly enough in which to convince an innocent civilian that he should

Taxpayers need not be alarmed that their money is being squan-dered. The drinks kitty will come from regimental funds, which have beeb swelled by the Worcesters' profitable operation of a snack bar during their six-month tour in Bosnia last year.

'Stop the

Call renews row over Church and politics

## Pray for a Labour victory, radical bishop tells voters

A CHURCH of England bishop is urging Labour voters to pray for Tony Blair to win the general election.

Professor Peter Selby, an assistant bishop and top acadernic who is soon to be enthroned as Bishop of Worcester, a traditionally Tory heartland, says that anyone leading a prayer group must respect the variety of beliefs of its members. "But that must not prevent us, individually or in groups. praying for a Labour victory,

His article, Praying to Win. will be published next week in the Christian Socialist Movement's election document, A Christian Case for Change. It provoked immediate condemnation from leading Conservatives and is certain to reignite the debate over the role of the established church in party

The left-wing sympathies of Professor Selby, former Bishop of Kingston-upon-Thames and currently a professorial fellow at Durham University, are well known in the church. He is considered one of the more radical protegés of the late Mervyn Stockwood, a former Bishop of Southwark and a leading liberal.

In his article, he confesses that "history is full of examples of opposing groups of

"Dehumiditiers-the

efficient way to reduce



Professor Selby: "Prayer expresses desire to God"

Christians claiming to have God on their side." He says it can be irritating to be "prayed against", giving as an example being "in church or at a prayer meeting and someone starts praying that an impending strike you just voted for will be called off"

But he argues that it is justifiable to pray for a Labour victory. "After all, what is prayer but the expressing of our desires to God, to whom in any case all desires are known; so if you have a desire, especially a really strong desire that you have worked on and thought deeply about and are actively campaigning for. how can you keep such a desire out of your prayers."

If Labour wins, he continues, "you will see more in it than just having got your way. You will see it as a new

less keeps its critical faculties

"So praying to win is also so praying to with its also taking to yourself the re-sources God gives you to protect you against bitterness in defeat or tyranny in vic-tory." A succession of Anglican bishops have already come out in support of Labour.

Professor Selby's call comes the Christian Socialist Movement gathers in London for the annual Tawney lecture, to be delivered today by the Rev Peter Thomson, the Anglican clergyman who is credited with leading Tony Blair to Christianity, and who will speak on Putting Spine into Community".

The Tory MP Sir Patrick Cormack, a member of the general synod of the Church of England, said: "A bishop should be a unifying force in a diocese. These comments can only have the effect of alienating probably half those who worship in the churches of Worcester.

"I find it extremely sad when leading clerics so blatantly campaign for any political party.

Also in A Christian Case for Change Dr Leslie Griffiths, former president of the Methodist conference, suggests prayers for use at the time of general election." His prayers state: "Deliver your Church, O Lord, from the worship of money, from bond-

age to the world, and from all

complicity in social evil." "

tian Socialist Movement, said the leaflet would be distributed to the movement's 5,000 members nationwide for use in churches and meetings. "It will include arguments for change in major policy areas, and lay down the kind of and ethical underpinnings in areas such as standards in public life."



Les Byrom, the defeated Tory candidate yesterday

## Tory shock tactics

Continued from page 1 viving the expected Labour squeeze to limit the drop in its share of the vote to only three

percentage points. The Conservatives are back in minority government, but Mr Major is expected to soldier on until May 1. As the time for staging a recovery begins running out there is increasing support within the Cabinet for Mr Major to accept the challenge of a television debate with the Labour leader.

Mr Blair called the result "superb" and, in a speech to in Llandudno, he spoke of a "political uprising against the Tories, deep in their heartland". He called on Mr Major to stop the dithering and set the election date.

Paddy Ashdown said his party had held its vote well and told Mr Major: The game's up. The longer you leave it, the harder you fall."

Mr Major issued the mess-age that, while Wirral South had not changed people's lives, the next big vote would. He told the BBC that the "vote in the Wirral does not change the face of Britain. In a few weeks' time the people of Wirral will have a chance to vote again and so will the rest of the country and that decision might change the face of Britain.

"The battle is still to be fought. Does Britain change course, does it move towards the policies of socialism? Or that have made it successful? That is the choice that lies ahead."

Tory strategists are braced for a long and bitter preelection battle, admitting that the use of "negative campaign-ing" against Labour is bound to be intensified.

Leading article, page 25

## sniping? **Tory** grandees are told still win this election. damaging." There was irritation in the

Continued from page I local party workers we can

"I envy the Labour Party which is keeping its disagree-ments private. We could learn from them. These rows are so

Huntingdon stronghold of John Major at the timing and prominence of the remarks by Lord Tebbir. John Bridge, the chairman of the local Tory association said: "It is sour grapes. There is no sense in it. Some people here are incensed."

John Boast, the chairman of Michael Portillo's Enfield Southgate association, said: Not only are some things better unsaid but Norman Tebbit, as a former party chairman, should know that the timing was unhelpful."

Julyan Ansell, the chairman of Gillian Shephard's Norfolk South West party, said: "At this time in a Parliament we cannot afford the luxury of being seen to argue with each other in public ... we are being destroyed by percep-

dies in n

fall from

Jean Kirk, the deputy chairman of the Kenneth Clarke's Rushcliffe association, said: The disagreements are more apparent because we have a small majority. It is certainly helpful to us knocking on doors if we are united."

Henry Barber, the chairman of Loughborough Conservatives, whose MP is Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, believed that the Tories could still win the general election. "But only if these unhelpful interventions know better."

Elizabeth Spooner, the chairman of Michael Howard's Folkestone constituency party, was convinced John Major would win the election. But adverse criticism from our own side does not help our

In Richmond, the scene of the Tories last by-election victory in February 1989, the local party has virtually ignored Conservative Central Office. Its campaign literature is focusing on William Hague, the local MP, rather than the virtues of the Government.

Rosemary Simson, chairman of Edinburgh Pentlands, where Malcolm Rifkind is defending a 4.300 majority. said: "Edward Heath is past his sell by date. Norman Tebbit's remarks were surprising and counter-produc-tive. We are between extremes.

John Hick, chairman of the Conservative Association in Sebastian Coe's Falmouth and Camborne constituency, said the Tories did not deserve another term in government unless they stopped fighting amongst themselves and concentrated on the real issues.

"A divided house shall fall. It's an old adage but it's true. The Tories must get their bloody act together. I'm sure they will, but that is the message."

## Irish police investigate illegal abortion claim

By Audrey Magee, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Marie Stopes family planning clinic in Dublin is the subject of a police investigation after a woman claimed she was given an abortion two years ago. Abortion is illegal

The woman, who has not been named, claims that she attended the clinic for advice on pregnancy. She told police she was offered the option of an abortion in Ireland which she accepted. She claims that she paid £120, less than half of the cost of an abortion in Britain.

The woman claims the procedure went wrong and she suffered medical complica-

tions. She says that she went to another doctor who treated her and organised counselling. She complained to police and officers raided the clinic and removed a number of files

but made no arrests. The London-based Marie Stopes International yesterday distanced itself from the controversy in Dublin. A spokesman said Dr Jim Loughran, the doctor who runs the Dublin clinic, is allowed to use the Marie Stopes name on his clinic for publicity and marketing reasons but there was no finanical or legal arrangement between the two parties. Dr Loughran has been ques-

tioned by police and was not available for comment. Frank Crummey, a solicitor

and board member of the Marie Stopes clinic in Dublin, said the clinic would not condone any breach of the law. He told RTE radio: "I personally would believe that anybody who would perform any kind of abortion procedure or an illegal procedure would be ridiculously foolish because the service is available in England."

The Marie Stopes clinic in Dublin city centre provides information about family planning, pregnancy and abortion facilities in England.

## Council finds class hard to stomach

By IAN MURRAY

BELLY-DANCING enthusiasts have been told that their hip-twisting and stomachstretching movements could lead to injuries.

A council has ruled that

unless the group restricts its abdominal movements to those of a conventional aerobics class, they will be barred from practising in a local hall, under health and safety regulations. Lindey Markey. 39, teacher of the 20 dancers in Coventry, was ordered by Coventry council to incorporate aerobics movements into the routine and that a qualified teacher was required if they wanted to continue using one of the council's halls for the weekly

dance session. The troupe has

decided to look for a new place to train.

"Egyptian dancing is an ancient art that people have been enjoying for hundreds of years. To introduce dance movements or aerobics would take away the essence of the dance," Mrs Markey said.

"The council said our hip circles could put too much stress on the lower back and could lead to problems. You can just as easily put your back out doing your shoelaces up. I always stress to my classes that they should only try what they feel comfortable with. "You need to be fit and supple. But it's not supposed to be acrobics. If people want to do that they go to an aerobics class: this is for fun."

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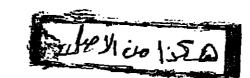
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They were produced as the most basic private transport; now they are sold by Christie's. Tony Dawe reports

Bubbling along on three wheels

thusiasm for bizarre motors - and an appalling taste in music the bubble car song, Beep Beep, was the first novelty record I bought. To a steady beat, the song told of an increasingly irate motorist being pursued in his limou-sine by a bubble car, hooting as it tried to overtake.

As the limousine went faster and faster, the bubble car continued to follow, sounding its horn. Eventually, at 140mph, the tiny machine drew alongside, the driver opened his window and called: "Hey buddy, how do I get this thing out of second gear?"

It was a good joke and not quite as ridiculous as it seemed. For in 1960, as microcars grew in popularity as a cheap and fun form of motoring, Messerschmitt, the leading makers of these unusual machines, produced a sleek four-wheel model capa-

ble of amazing and frightening speeds. Enthusiasts have The Tiger raced supercharged versions of the FMR TG-500. prices more popularly could be known as the Tiger, around cir-cuits at 100mph. as high as Last week I had £20,000 my chance to drive

arrived at Chris-London as part of the collection of 43 microcars to be auctioned next week. They belong to Bruce Weiner, a Canadian who made his fortune, appropriately, from bubble gum, then fell in love with the cars with a similar name.

The cars will be sold in individual lots on Thursday and the Tigers are expected to fetch the best prices, possibly as high as £20,000. It was not surprising, therefore, that Malcolm Welford, Christie's motor car expert, failed to share my enthusiasm for emulating the feats related in that old song recorded by The

Playmates. When I arrived in Nine Elms for my test drive, the red store and the black Bubble Top sat in the showroom with a flat battery. Welford and his colleague, Jonathan Procter. reluctantly unscrewed the torpedo-shaped back of the car and fitted another 12-volt battery. They then discovered the

car was out of petrol, so an assistant was sent down the road to the nearest garage

Finally, when the car was wheeled out of the showroom. the starter motor produced a whirring noise but the twin cylinder engine refused to fire. After another hour tinkering with the Sachs-derived engine, rain began to fall and Welford and Procter pushed their showpiece back under cover, promising prospective buyers that Weiner's own mechanic would arrive shortly to make sure all 43 bubbles really were in working order.

We had better luck with a bright red Messerschmitt KR-201 Roadster, still an eyecatching machine, although only capable of more modest speeds. It pottered unsteadily along the busy roads with the handlebar steering producing jerky results. Executing a right turn proved increasingly difficult and painful as the knuckles of my left hand wedged

against the windscreen. Visibility was excellent, especially with the claustrophobic canopy wound down, but I wondered whether some of the Parcel Force lorries and security vans roaring past actually saw the car.

The Roadster tie's motor showroom in was introduced in 1958 in the middle of the bubble car boom which extended from the early Fifties to the mid-Sixties. Most were made in Germany to provide basic transport for a nation recovering from the war - by companies which had played a more menacing role in wartime: Messer-schmitt, Heinkel and BMW.

"They were cheap to run, easy to park and in many countries attracted very little tax." Welford said. "They might have become more popular but for the invention of the Mini in 1959.

"Faced with the choice of a cramped two-seater with three wheels or a car with four wheels and capable of carrying four passengers, most opted for the Mini."

As the microcars disappeared from our streets, they became collectors' items. More than 150 are on show at a museum in Story near Frankfurt, but Weiner's is thought to be the largest private collec-



Dawe in a Messerschmitt KR-201 Roadster: "Visibility was excellent, but I wondered whether some of the Parcel Force lorries and security vans roaring past actually saw the car-

tion. It includes an Inter Berline which looks like the cockpit of something the Red Baron might have flown - but on wheels - and was made in 1955 at a French aircraft factory; a 1973 Bond Bug with a four-cylinder Reliant engine which was Britain's contribution to the fad; and a familiar BMW Isetta.

hey have such character and some of them are really en-Weiner said. He has seen them all restored to the last nut and bolt but has decided to sell because his hobby was taking up too much time and money.

"We expect the sale to attract a great amount of interest." Welford added. "We are expecting buyers from museums. microcar enthusiasts and those who cannot resist the cars' intriguing looks. If you want to entice people into your showroom or have a

talking point in your home or office, there can be nothing better than a bubble car."

The machines have certainly attracted more than a second glance in the Jack Barclay showroom which Christie's use, positioned as they are among a collection of glittering Rolls-Royces, I sat at the wheel of most of

them, including a 1958 Rollera single seater which ressembles a dodgem car, and decided that the extremely rare Vallee Chantecler, almost circular in shape, looked more my style. Sadly, it proved virtually impossible to climb into. I had to bend under an incoveniently placed bar above the window and try and curl my feet behind the steering column.

After aggravating a cartilage injury, I settled for standing up in the damn thing for the photographer's benefit. While I am sure the sale will be a great success, personally I shall be looking for a 4x4 auction somewhere next week.





Dawe stands tall in a Vallee Chantecler as Malcolm Welford, Christie's car expert, tries to start a Messerschmitt Tiger

## A definite improvement on a fine

Brian Pedley on

an alternative

to prosecution that makes

errant drivers

more careful

ach of the 15 men and women had a haunt-ingly familiar tale to tell. The experiences ranged from the embarrassing to the recurringly frightening. Rosanna Cottey's testimony

was typical. "I was driving my oldish Ford Orion through Sidmouth one Saturday afternoon," recalls the 45-year-old dental nurse. "I glanced to one side for just one or two schools, and ploughed right into the car in front. My car was a write-off."

.Then there was Philip, 22, whose carelessness caused two other cars to crash off the road. John, a farmer in his sixties. recounted a skirmish between an encoming car and his truck. A live bull was riding with him at the time.

There was a time when all such motorists would have been prosecuted for driving without due care and attention. But a growing number of police areas now offer opporunities to escape the wrath of the court - and become safer drivers into the bargain.

In a scheme conceived in Nottingham but pioneered in Devon since 1991, "due care" offenders are offered re-education and retraining as an alternative to prosecution. The delegates, as they are known. must spend £85 on confronting their own failings in front of others during one-and-a-half days of driver improvement.



Devon Drivers Centre instructor Malcolm Fortnum puts Rosanna Cottey on the right road to safer motoring

Should they reject this once-ina-lifetime invitation, prosecu-tion will inevitably follow. A conviction for "due care"

usually carries an average fine of £120, together with three penalty points. Cottey, her driving licence already be-smirched by two convictions for speeding, had no qualms about accepting the written offer from Devon and Cornwall Police. But driver improvement is no soft option, she says. "When you arrive, you're there with people you've never met before — and you feel like you're in a

detention class." Drivers spend the greater part of each course behind the wheel, with other previously errant motorists looking on from the back seat. The disadvantage of taking people to court is that it doesn't do anything at all about driving ability," says Malcolm Fortnam, one of a team of professional instructors at the Exeter centre. "People leave the court aggrieved at being prosecuted. But doing it this way, they go away feeling quite positive."

Police forces and road safety departments in Shropshire, Hertfordshire, Lancashire and Hereford and Worcester have all copied the Devon project. Gloucestershire, Cambridgeshire and Merseyside are also to about to launch courses, as will London in the near future. Last month, the county-

council-run Devon Drivers

Centre was recognised with a Prince Michael Award for its

special contribution towards

"Drivers are just accidents waiting for somewhere to happen," Fortnam says. "The biggest problem is complacency. Bad habits can go unchecked for a very long time because the right conditions and circumstances haven't occurred."

road safety. Driver improve-

ment is now a key element in

the Government's drive to

reduce road accidents by a

third by the year 2000.

Many candidates arrive at the centre still scarred by their experiences, even afraid to get into a car again. "My accident happened was in the middle of the High Street, with everyone coming to have a look," recalls Cottey. "The man in front just went back in his seat and kept very still. I thought, 'My God, I've killed him...' I shook afterwards. It was the thought

of what might have happened. When your car's written off, it can be replaced. But a human

By the end of this year, some 3,000 people will have taken part in driver improvement in Devon. Initial research indicates that the likelihood of a candidate being involved in another accident appears significantly reduced. A more detailed survey being undertaken by the Department of Transport may well substantiate the Devon findings.

"I've spoken to people who, even three years on, continue to think more about their driving, says Devon Drivers Centre manager Marion Deacock. "We are the practical arm of road safety. We don't just offer guidance. We get to the heart of the problem.



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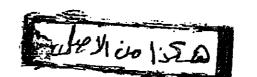
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## only Curs bring you all this





It's not nimbyism, say residents who raised £200,000 in three days to foil rehabilitation charity

## Villagers buy house to keep out ex-drug addicts

VILLAGERS learnt yesterday that they had succeeded in their bid for a house after raising £200,000 in three days to stop a charity from using it for former drug addicts and

Last night Kenneth Eckersley, the charity's head, said: "It is out-and-out 'nimbyism' [Not In My Back Yard], but I suspect that if it was happening in my village. I would probably think the same way."

Addiction Retraining Services had made an offer close to the asking price of £195,000 for the former pub on the village green at Burton Leon-ard, North Yorkshire, which has a population of 473. The organisation planned to rent the three-storey house to another charity, Narconon, to prepare up to 16 people for life back in the community. Contracts had been due to be

The stone-built village, close to the cathedral city of Ripon,

## **BURTON LEONARD**

Stone-built village attracts middle-class professionals

dress for middle-class professionals and retired business people. More than 140 of them, fearful of former addicts living across the road from a school, packed the village hall on Sunday. They agreed to make their own bid for the 21room Crown House, pledging a minimum of £500 each.

Mr Eckersley, 69, executive director of Addiction Retraining Services, who had been negotiating for the house for six months, said: "They have got the wrong idea about what we are trying to do, but I am happy to stand aside, provided we do not lose financially. There is no point in moving into a place where there is so much antagonism and hostil-

Andy Hales, a former moved in three years ago.

said: "We bought an off-theshelf limited company and have renamed it Burton Leonard Management. People will be allocated shares in it equivalent to the money they have donated." Within three days 50 households had pledged

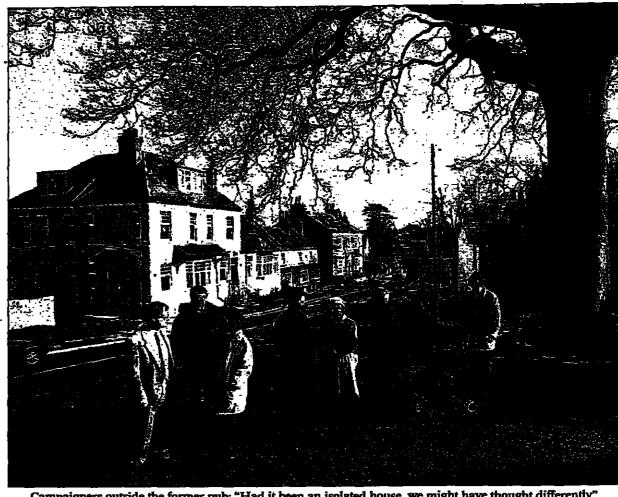
enough to cover a bid. Mr Hale, 49, said: "Amounts into four and five figures have been promised. Our aim is to sell it eventually to a buyer who will find a more suitable use, preferably as a private home. Our concerns were that addicts might be wandering the village without any form of obvious security. Had it been an isolated house in its own grounds we might have thought different-ly, but this is a totally inappro-priate development."

Mr Eckersley said: "This house would not have been

already have come off the drugs by the time they reached Burton Leonard. The students, as we call them, would stay for up to 24 weeks, first having their bodies purged of the toxins the drugs leave and then having their minds prepared to face the outside world. They would have been no threat to the community."

Bridget Mellor, who moved to the village when her hus-band retired as Deputy Chief Constable of South Wales Police, said: "Our children can walk to school or to the shops to buy sweets, and I feel it's safe for them to do so. I don't know how stable some of the residents of the centre would have been.

Dennis Muldoon, 58, a consultant working from home on contracts in China, was elected chairman of Burton Leonard Management. He said: "I am so relieved. However, the problem will now become someone else's. We feel for any other community that will be threatened in this way."



Campaigners outside the former pub: "Had it been an isolated house, we might have thought differently"

## Volunteer prisoner is freed

By A STAFF REPORTER

A LONDON fireman who knocked on the door of Brixton prison while on bail, asked to be readmitted, and spent five days in a cell before officials realised they had no right to keep him was set free

David Watson, 31, had been sentenced to three weeks in iail for using threatening behaviour outside a London nightclub last summer. He was released on bail after six days when he lodged an appeal against conviction. But then learnt he had been suspended from the London Fire Brigade. Because he had nothing else to do he decided to go back to prison voluntarily.

Southwark Crown Court yesterday dismissed his appeal against conviction but because he had served most of his sentence he was freed.

Judge Rucker said Watson would have been in a queue of one trying to get into prison. He added: "I don't the front door of Brixton Prison that we would be admitted for the weekend, and I don't feel like doing it either

myself.
I must admit this has its humorous aspects. But I assure you that we are treating this matter most seriously." The judge ordered Watson to pay \$270 prosecution costs.

## Lawyer wins £45,000 for false arrest

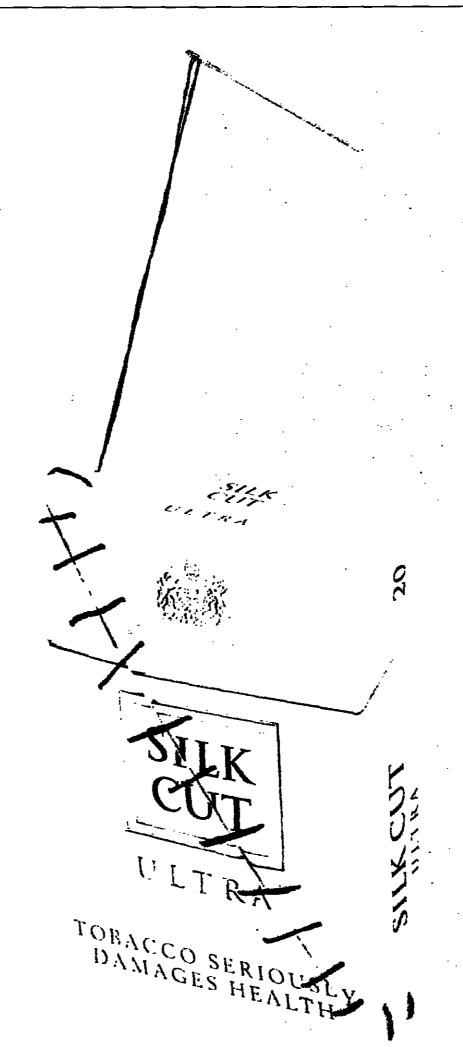
By Stewart Tendler

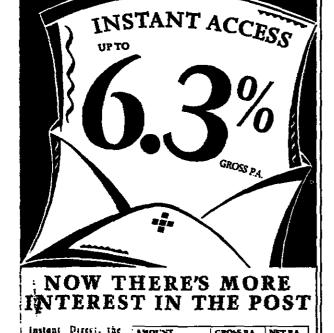
A LAWYER who was arrested and charged with handling stolen goods was awarded E45,000 damages against Essex Police in the High Court yesterday.

The court was told that the action was taken to damage the professional reputation of Hazel Jones. 33, and the law firm where she worked as a legal executive after she made formal disciplinary complaints against officers from Chelmsford police station which resulted in disciplinary action against them.

Miss Jones had claimed damages for false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, defamation, malicious false hood and conspiracy for the "anxiety, distress and humiliation" she suffered when she was acting for a client. She was awarded exemplary damages for what was described as "oppressive, arbitrary and unconstitutional" misconduct custody for four hours.

Essex Police did not defend the case and Miss Jones has received a written apology Constable of Essex. who agreed her arrest should never have taken place. His force faces a legal bill of more than





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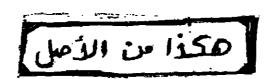
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• At the moment of Britpop's greatest glory, with the world swooning at the fragrant feet of the Spice Girls, Britpop's noisy baby sisters. the seeds of its own destruction are starting to sprout

John Harlow on why the bubble is about to burst for British rock Culture, tomorrow

## Mother's loan earns US film for amateur director

MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A SELF-TAUGHT director aged 21, who financed his first feature film with a £5,000 loan from his mother, has been signed up by a Hollywood studio to shoot his own multimillion-dollar production.

Andy Hurst was talentspotted by Roland Emmerich, director of the Hollywood blockbuster Independence Day, after the director saw Project: Assassin. a science-fiction thriller which Mr Hurst began when 16.

Mr Hurst, who has had temporary shop jobs since leaving school, said: I am incredibly surprised that someone like Emmerich, whose work I have always admired, should have taken the time to watch my film. It's amazing that he liked it so

Project: Assassin stars Mr Hurst's brother Mike, 23, and his friend Robin Hill, 22, who also helped with the script and production. It is an action adventure about a man who has been genetically modified to become a murderer. Mr Hurst talked Pinewood



Emmerich: discovered Briton's work at Cannes

Studios in Hertfordshire into letting him shoot the film there for free. He also persuaded the Trocadero in London to allow him to use its Alien World set for no fee. "I am a great blagger," Mr

Hurst, from Brighton, said. 'We also had an amazing run of luck. I got my friends to act in the film and to help out. Robin's dad, Bob, had a part." Project: Assassin came to the attention of Mr Entmerich, whose films include Stargate, at the Cannes film festival last year. Exhausted by working round the clock to get the film

his brother and Mr Hill to Cannes. They could not afford a hotel and stayed at an outlying campsite, from where

they hitched into the town. They handed out copies of the film and, luckily for us, it was seen Marco Weber from Emmerich's film company. Centropolis Streamline," Mr Hurst said.

Mike Hurst and Mr Hill told prospective investors that the film was budgeted at "under El million" because they feared they would be deterred if they knew the film had cost only £5,000.

Mike Hurst's encounter with Mr Weber came by chance. "We literally bumped into him when we were trying to get directions to a party. We had to go to the parties because they had free food and we couldn't afford to buy anything to eat," he said.

Streamline arranged invest-ment of \$150,000 (£92,000) to redub Project: Assassin and bring it up to cinema quality. The company flew Mr Hurst to Los Angeles for negotiations in the autumn and he has now been offered the chance to make his next film for Stream-

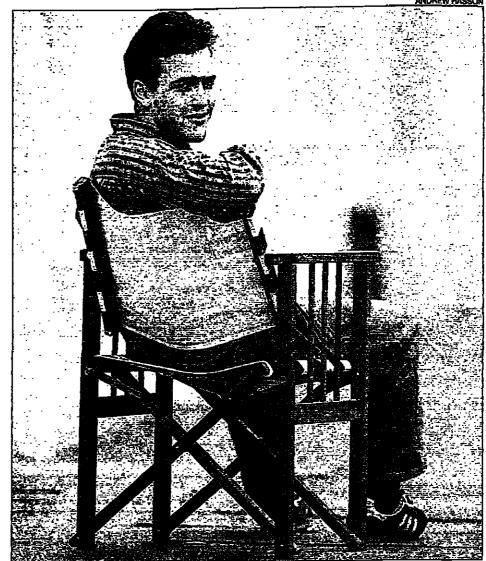
He declined to give details of the film, but said he was happy that it would be shot in Britain. "It would be fun to do a film in Hollywood, but it will be a lot easier this way because I will be able to go home and play football at the end of each day's work."

He intends to employ his brother and Mr Hill on the project. "I could not have done it without them. This was a joint effort."

Mr Hurst also paid tribute to his mother Joy, a solicitor.

My brother and I nagged mum to buy us a video camera when we were about ten. We watched films on television and remade them ourselves the next day. In the holidays we made a film a day. Mum was our first investor. She took out a bank loan to fund Project: Assassin.

The brothers' fascination with films was sparked by Jaws, Star Wars and Alien. "We were terrified by Jaws and it was the thought that you could frighten people and have so much influence over how they reacted that attracted us," Mr Hurst said.



Andy Hurst's film will be shot in Britain, so he can go home to play football each day

## Friend cleared of Leah Betts Ecstasy charge

A COLLEGE friend of Leah Betts was formally acquitted yesterday of supplying the teenager with the Ecstasy tablet that killed her after her 18th birthday party.

Steven Packman, 19, walked free after a jury failed to reach a verdict at his retrial at Norwich Crown Court. Mr Packman, a computer pro-grammer from Laindon, Essex, was cleared on the directions of Mr Justice

Wright At an earlier trial, at which there was a hung jury, his friend Stephen Smith, 20, a student, was given a two-year conditional discharge after admitting helping to supply Miss Betts with the fatal tablet. Two of her friends, Sarah Cargill and Louise Yexley, both 18 and of Basilconnected with the supply of Ecstasy to Miss Betts, were given a formal caution by

Leah's father, Paul Betts, a former policeman, said after the case: "I feel no bitterness towards the friends who supplied Leah, though at the time I could have quite happily strangled someone.

"Thus is the end of one chapter and the start of a new life. There's a lot that can be learnt from what has happened because it shows that from one simple little pill there have been so many families traumatised.

"Justice isn't done until the biggies are caught. There were lots of names mentioned in court. I don't know if there's any evidence to support them being charged. These big bastards are purely there for the money and don't give a damn about who is hurt."

John Cooper, for Mr Pack-man, said: "The past 15 months have been a turment to Mr Packman and his parents, a decent young man and a decent family. They are now all relieved that this is at an end and that Steven leaves this court an innocent man. He is

distressed and saddened at the loss of Leah."

Miss Betts, a promising Alevel student at Basildon College, fell into a coma and was put on a life support machine after taking the Ecstasy tablet. She died five days after her party in November 1995.

The case of Mr Packman served as a prelude to the trial at the Old Bailey later this year of two men for the murders of three drug dealers. Tony Tucker was shot in a Range Rover with his associates Pat Tate, 37, and Craig Rolph, 26, in a country lane at Rettendon, Essex, in December 1995. The jury was told that Tucker, 38, held the



Packman: jury could not agree a verdict

franchise to supply drug pushers at a network of rave clubs in south Essex and ran a security business which enabled him to place the bouncers on the door. Michael Steele, 53, and Jack Whomes, 35. will appear at the Old Bailey charged with the triple shooting. Raquel's, the club in Basildon where the Ecstasy was obtained for Miss Betts, was a magnet for young people pursuing the excitement of loud music, lager and drugs. The club, which was said to have given its tacit approval to pushers was closed for refurbishment after Miss Betts's death but reopened last December as Club Europa.



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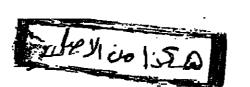
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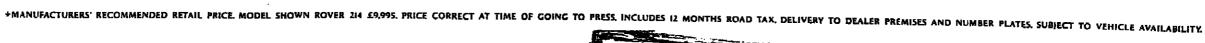
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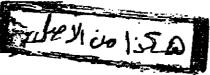
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## Nintendo fires first shot of new video games war with most expensive video console package yet

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## Mario's back and he means big business

By NICK NUITALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

AFIER a lull lasting several years, video-game wars resume at full tilt in the high streets and homes of Britain today. Leading the onslaught is the old favourite Super

The moustachioed plumber features strongly in elaborate 3-D games on the new Nintendo 64 console, which is launched in the shops this weekend at £249.

Super Mario has his sights set on the other big names in the market. Sonic the Hedge-hog on Sega's Saturn console,

and Lara Croft, the British heiress with Page Three proportions who stars in Tomb Raider on Sony's PlayStation. The Sony product normally retails at £199 but yesterday, to

the chagrin of those parents who had paid the full price at Christmas, it was cut to £129 in an attempt to take some of the shine off the new Nintendo, whose games retail at almost £70.

Sony has sold some 750,000 PlayStation units in Britain recently and is aiming to top 1.6 million by the end of the

> coming weeks. The battle for market share is already descending into dirty tricks. A spoof press release, claiming to be from Nintendo but denigrating the N64, was circulated to newspapers yesterday. It described the Nintendo as using "ye old cartridge technology, which is much better than silly state-ofthe art CD which has far too much storage capacity". Both Sony and Sega use CDs while Nintendo has stuck with

year. Sega has sold about

200,000 Saturns and calcu-

lates it will sell another

250,000. Estimates for the new

Nintendo are 400,000 units

Nintendo is putting only 20,000 units on sale today but

deny that is a marketing stunt

aimed at creating a shortage and fuelling demand. A spokeswoman said: "It's fair to

say that 20,000 Nintendo 64s

on the first day won't be

enough but the volume in

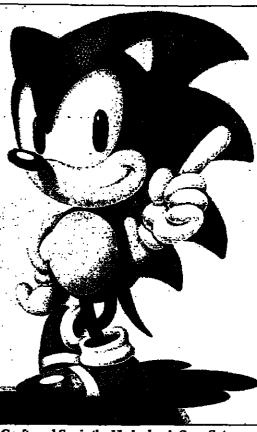
sales in America and Japan has been so great that they just can't make them fast enough."

The company said more would be shipped in over the

Sony took the lead in the







Super Mario, left, is aiming to power Nintendo ahead of Sony's PlayStation, which features Lara Croft, and Sonic the Hedgehog's Sega Saturn

PlayStation was introduced in 1995, with the Sega Saturn pushed into third place. N64 is a determined effort by

Nintendo to regain the lead. The console has been in development for four years and leapfrogs competing systems in terms of computing power. It operates, as the name suggests, on a 64-bit system, while its competitors use 32 bits. Thag means it can handle more information more quickly. N64 games graphics move very smoothly and have a high degree of detail: water features look very much like water, objects have

shadows and landscapes are very interactive.

In many ways, the N64 is a powerful computer, much like a desktop PC, but it has been optimised to run graphics. Silicon Graphics, a company that specialises in providing specialist graphics computers, was closely involved in the

development. lt also has an innovative control pad, the first to use a thumb-sized joystick as well as buttons. This has been designed to make it easier to navigate around the complex 3-D virtual worlds that feature in most games. Industry ex-

perts expect the N64 to trigger a renaissance in home entertainment systems. Video games have been losing market share in recent years, with consumers choosing to buy personal computers rather than consoles.

Stuart Dinsey, editor of Computer Trade Weekly, which covers the games mar-ket, said yesterday: "After a difficult time and slump in the industry, we are now seeing growth again. Indeed, we may now be in for another boom." He described one of the new Nintendo games, featuring Super Mario, as "the best

ever". The CD versus cartridge issue, he said. was purely technological". Mr Dinsey also said that

from being the coveted toys of seven to sixteen-year-olds, vid-eo games had become home entertainment for the more mature. "All of those twentysomethings who grew up with the games culture buy them. Indeed Sony, with its PlayStation, has been pitching at the 18 to 30-year-olds. They are seen as something you play with your mates after being in the pub on a Friday

adaptation of one of their own toys. Tim Shepherd was given the toy by a Japanese ex-change student 15 years ago. The Swingamajig, an Sin-high plastic juggling game, is being manufactured in China for sale in Japan, Australia, America, South Africa, Portugal and Holland.

The toy, which will be available in Britain by Easter, is being marketed on the Internet. "It is very addictive and demands good co-ordination of hand and eye," Mr

## Learners must prove identity

Stores stocking up with Nintendo 64s yesterday

LEARNER drivers turning up for their written or practical tests will have to provide photographic proof of their identity from today after a spate of attempted impersonations. Jonathan Prynn

Examiners stop about 200 "learners" each year who try to take the practical test on behalf of friends or relatives. They are usually spotted by the examiners because they drive too well but there are written examination introduced last summer. The maximum penalty for impersonation is a £5,000 fine or two years in prison.

The new rules demand that learners provide their provisional driving licences and photographic proof of identity at both stages of the test. Approved documents include passports. photo-bearing cheque or credit cards, work identity cards and student or union membership cards.

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## Net tourists fail to find the Palace

By Alan Hamilton

COMPUTER buffs were yes-terday surfing the Internet hoping to be the first to track down the Queen's web site. Such trophies matter among the addicted.

Buckingham Palace announced on Wednesday that it was about to put 150 pages of information about the monarchy on the global electronic information network but that details of how to find it would remain secret until an official spinch by the Oneen at a north London school next Thursday. To Net surfers, the challenge was irresistible.

But by trying all the obvious passwords, enthusiasts have come up only with a variety of rubbish and even a certain amount of pornography. Web sites are found by keying in addresses that usually include an appropriate codeword. Should you wish to read the electronic version of this report, tap http://www.the-times.co.uk

into your computer. Internet users yesterday tried such access to a variety of tourist.

priate word produced a programme of pornography that might appeal to 14-year-old cyberbuffs who spend all day certainly has nothing to do with the monarch.

on to something when they discovered a site proclaiming itself to be "under construction" with the address www.e2r.com. Aha! E2R! That must be her. Alas, no: the site belongs to a New Jersey capital management company and there will be surprise in the computer world if the Queen's address does not end with co.uk.

passwords as royalty, monarchy, royal estates and House of Windsor, which gave them hotel and other irrelevant information, much of it American and largely outdated. Tapping in another appro-

Surfers thought they were

## Fake air crash causes alert at hospital

A HOSPITAL was put on emergency standby when trainee reporters convinced in that an aircrast had crashed near by. Air UK was holding an exercise to test its disaster

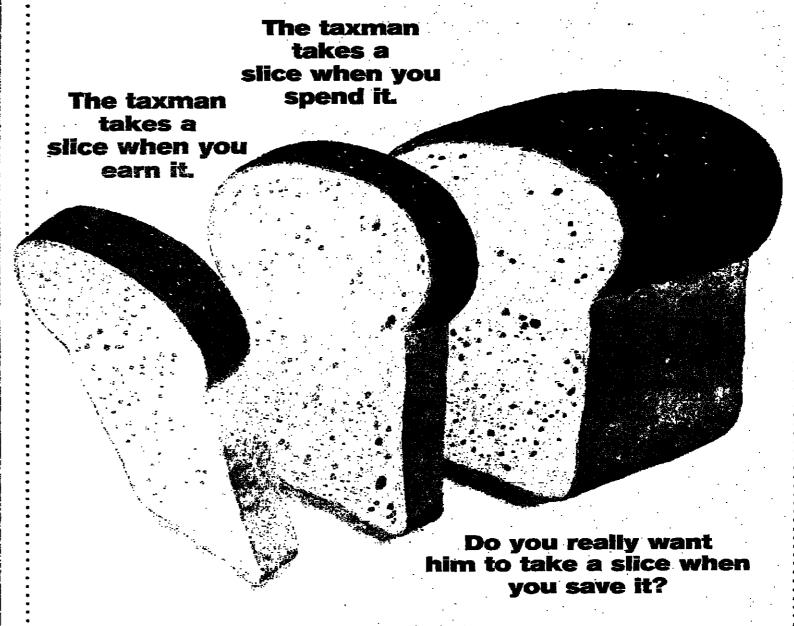
response. Thirty students from Harlow College, Essex, were recruited to play the part of journalists. Some went to Air UK's base at Stansted Airport and others to Norwich, supposed scene of the crash. They bombarded Norfolk and Norwich Hospital for information. with some allegedly posing as

relatives. Routine operations were on the verge of being cancelled. A hospital spokeswoman said the trainees' actions were "supremely irresponsible.

Jeremy Hands, the former relevision news reader who organised the exercise said the trainees had been told to ring only certified numbers.







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## Church uneasy at anniversary book about Dunblane

MEMORIES of families involved in the massacre at Dunblane have been turned into a book that will be published next week as the anniversary approaches.

Dunhlane, Our Year of Tears has colour photographs and is divided into twelve chapters, each a personal account of the terrible day and the heartache that followed. With chapters such as A Mother, A Father, A Minister, A Husband, A Teacher and A Child, the book is meant to be "a poignant record" of the grief that engulied the small

cathedral city.

The publishers Main-stream, of Edinburgh, believe the E12.99, 174-page book will be a best-seller. All profits will go to the charity Save the Children.

However the church minister who contributed to it has now expressed misgivings about the project, which comes after the pop single released to raise money for the victims and the Snowdrop campaign to ban guns. The book includes chapters by Karen Turner, who lost her daughter Megan; Dr Mick North, whose daughter Sophie died; and Rod Mayor, the husband of the murdered teacher Gwen Mayor.

It also has accounts from Eileen Harrild, a teacher who was shot, and Coll Austin, 6,

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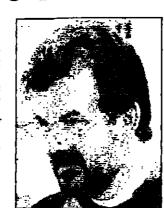
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McIntosh: no reason to say no to book

who was seriously wounded. Chris de Burgh, the singer who held a fund-raising concert, makes a contribution, as does George Robertson, the Labour Shadow Scottish secretary, who lives in Dunblane, and Pamela Ross, who lost her daughter Joanna and works

for the Snowdrop campaign. The Rev Colin McIntosh, of Dunblane Cathedral, whose account is featured in chapter ten, said yesterday: "This is something I personally comfortable with. This kind of publicity is in some ways drawing attention to the town again. You will sense a certain reluctance on my part. I have conflicting feelings. There is a sense which personally I would rather not have the publicity.'

The minister was approached by the two journal-

WHEN YOU PROTECT YOUR PURCHASES WITH

and asked for the Church's point of view. He said he agreed to take part because "there was no strong reason for declining". He was aware it had the backing of some of the parents. "I was not railroaded into it. I could have said no."

He was interviewed and then allowed to see the scripted account of what he had said. "It was very much written in journalese. I was allowed to see it and make some alterations to it mainly from a factual point of view before the final copy went out. "I suppose there was a

feeling that something like this was going to be done by someone and if we took part in it we would have a little say in how it was done. Also by agreeing to one, the parents could say no to all others." According to the publishers.

to book was put together at "breakneck speed" in about six weeks, to coincide with the anniversary on March 13. Mainstream said the publica-tion had been "fully backed" by the Sunday Mail, a Glasgow tabloid owned by the Mirror Group. The Daily Record, also Glasgow-based, which belongs to the same stable, is offering readers a voucher to exchange for a free candle to light to remember the victims — a request originally made by the bereaved



Daniel Hooper makes himself at home yesterday in his latest tunnel protest near Manchester Airport

## Swampy digs in for runway protest

SWAMPY, the country's best-known ecowarrior, emerged from his new underground home yesterday and joked: "They'll never take me alive."

Swampy, 23, whose real name is Daniel Hooper, wearing a wetsuit with an air tank on his back, was speaking from the entrance of the warren of tunnels near Styall, Cheshire, site of the Manchester Airport runway protest. Mr Hooper gained notoriety when he spent seven days underground protesting against the building of the A30 in Devon.

He said yesterday: "I have spent seven days and nights underground to stop car pollution. When I found out that one person's return trip to Florida causes almost the same amount of pollution, this

camp just had to be my next stop.

This is pollution for profit and I am taking to the tunnel again to stop it. The tunnels here are better than the ones at Fairmile and we are learning and getting better all the time in building them. It's really interesting work and this is a particularly fun tunnel to work in

because it has a U-bend in it which is completely filled with water."

"We've had great support from the local community. Terry Waite was here on Monday to lend support for us and popularity for the protest is growing."

Jeff Gazzard, of the local community group Manchester Airport Environmentalists Network, said: "Swampy is such a nice fellow that it would be great to have his company anywhere. But for him to be supporting our cause endears him all the

she has lived in a residential

home and has been virtually

free of symptoms. She is able

to remember names and

dates, knows where she is and

understands the nature of the

Electric shock treatment, also known as electro-convul-

sive therapy (ECT), has a

controversial history and was

once described as barbaric.

Today it is widely accepted by

psychiatrists as a last-resort

treatment for severe depres-

sion, although fears remain

about its long-term effect on

David Anderson, consultant

psychogeriatrician at Rath-

bone Hospital. Liverpool, in

the Journal of the Royal

College of Psychiatrists. He said that the absence of cogni-

tive deterioration in the

woman justified regular use

of electric shock treatment in

some patients with severe

The case is described by Dr

treatment. She is now 74.

Woman sets record

for shock treatment

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN has undergone

the longest continuous course

of electric shock treatment for

Since 1989 the unnamed

patient has received more

than 430 treatments, in which a pulse of electricity is passed

through her brain triggering convulsions. For the first four

years she had treatment twice a week but it was then cuf to ,

The regular shocks were

effective in warding off her

despair, which was accompa-

nied by feelings of guilt, and

ala not cause progressive

mental damage, as doctors

had feared. The depression

returned when the shocks

were given less than once a

The woman had been treat-

ed for depression from the age

of 43 with regular stays in

hospital. Before the course of

treatment began she had

spent most of the previous five

years in hospital. Since 1989,

once a fortnight.

fortnight.

THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T

## Dean faces charges over funds

A senior Anglican clergyman is to face charges over the alleged disappearance of more than £100,000 from church funds.

Prebendary Roy Hibbert. 67, the rural dean of Edgmond, Shropshire, will appear before Telford magistrates next month to face eight charges of false accounting and one of theft of monies from the Diocese of Lichfield. Mr Hibbert, the rector of Newport, Shropshire, was arrested in recent weeks.

### Phone pest jailed

A woman who made more than 11,000 malicious calls to a charity was sentenced to four months in jail. Carol Underwood, 55, from Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire, was convicted by Hinckley magistrates in December.

### All-night shops

Four Tesco stores, at Hemel Hempstead. Hertfordshire, Brent Cross, north London, Horley, Surrey, and Prest-wich, Greater Manchester, and the Brent Cross Safeway stayed open all last night to at-tract extra weekend shoppers.

### Zero car thefts

Cleveland Police marked another success for its "zero tolerance" anti-crime campaign when not a single car was stolen in Middlesbrough on Wednesday. The town averaged seven car thefts a day before the campaign.

## History in the bag

A Tesco carrier bag and an Argos catalogue have been concealed beneath decks of Nelson's ship, Victory, in Portsmouth. The capsule was the idea of shipwrights who found objects left by workers over the past 200 years.

### Pricey little pen

An Edwardian Waterman fountain pen only lizin long was sold for £7,130 at Bonhams in Knightsbridge. The pen, complete with a gold nib. went to an anonymous commission bidder. The estimate had been £4,000 to £5,000.

## Surprise in store

A baby was born in a super-market after Jan Oliver, 35. went into labour while shopping. Customers at Savacentre in Basildon, Essex. cheered when the birth was announced on the shop public address system.

## Cats and dogs

The driest January for over 200 years was followed by a very wet, windy February. Met Office figures showed. Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, had the rainiest month on record, with nearly 154 inches. Forecast, page 28

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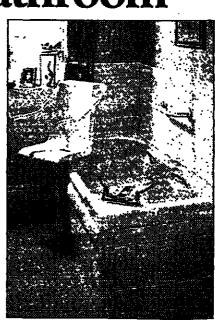
There's a great deal going on

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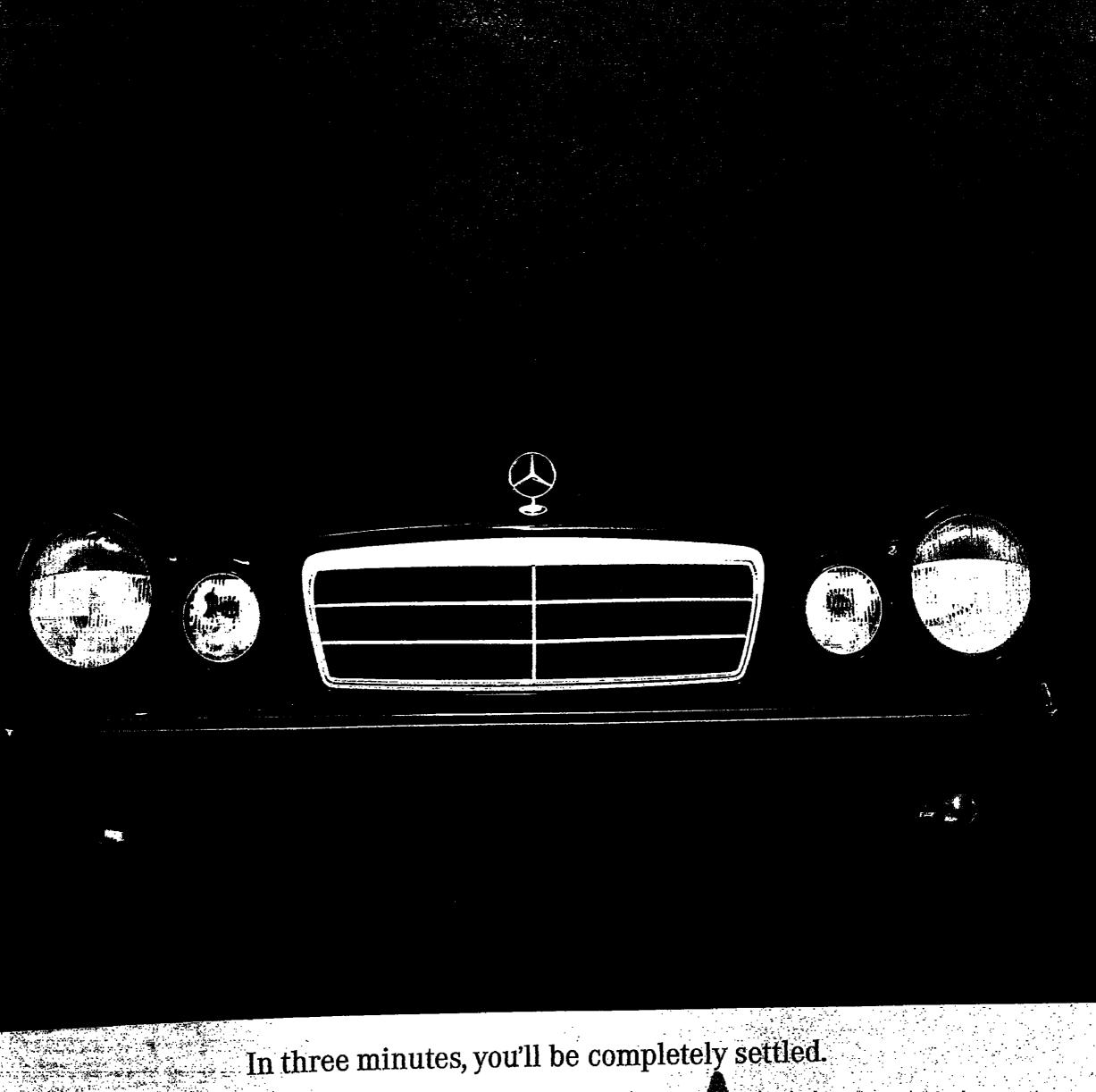
Dolphin

**VEN TECHNOLOGY** 

MEN TECHNOLOGY

Dean

charg



6.30pm. Rush hour. You want to go home. Your nerves are fractured, the brain's fermenting, the smile's in rigor mortis. It's been a Black Monday of a day and it's not over yet. Now you have a tedious appointment with the traffic. You churn. You fume. You exhale. You turn on the engine.

Slowly, as it hung to life, a quiet little voice of calm resonates inside you. You nestle down into your seat, rest your hands on the wheel and slide into the street. The red lights become lanterns, the horns are a symphony and the traffic melts. 6:33pm. Hush-hour. You're home.

Mercedes-Renz

## Desperate Tories' only hope is to frighten the voters back

share in the latest MORI

poll for The Times. In most

by-elections, the third party

has been squeezed hard by

the strongest challenger to

the Tories, often down to low

single figures. The exceptions

were the two previously Tory

held seats, Eastleigh and

Littleborough and Saddle-

worth, where the battle was

between Labour and the

Liberal Democrats. But in Wirral South the Liberal

Democrats limited the squeeze

to a three point drop in its

share to 10 per cent. The party

THE Wirral South result is as bad as it looks for the Tories. Of course, by-elections, like opinion polls, cannot predict what will happen in a general election when voters are choosing a government. But no party in power has ever recovered from as deep a hole as the Tories are now in and gone on within less than nine weeks to win a further term.

Thursday's by-election suggests that voters are not just protesting against the Government. They are willing to back Labour. Thousands of Wirral voters seem to have shifted direct from the Tories to Labour. This is suggested by a turnout of 73 per cent, the second highest in any byelection this Parliament, and by the sharp rise in the Labour

The swing from Tory to Labour in Wirral South since the 1992 general election was 17.2 per cent. This is higher than the swing indicated by all recent national opinion polls which the Tory high command has been busy rubbishing - for instance, the 14.5 per cent swing indicated by the

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Thursday. Admittedly, it was less than the 29 per cent that Labour achieved in Dudley West in December 1994, or the 22 per cent it recorded in Staffordshire South East in April 1996. But the absolute such a large drop in its share Labour vote fell in the former of the vote in the last byand rose by 19 per cent in the latter, while in Wirral South election of a Parliament and won the subsequent gener-Labour increased its absolute al election. vote by 30 per cent, or 5,300, since 1992. This points to The Wirral South byelection was not too bad for positive support for Labour the Liberal Democrats, derather than just hostility to the spite its lowly 11 per cent

in past Parliaments, the Tories have lost by-elections in the final year of a Parliament, as in Birmingham Northfield in 1982 and Langbaurgh in 1991, and recovered these seats at the subsequent general election. But the swing against the Tories was smaller then and the period before a general election longer.

The Tory share of the vote fell by 6.3 percentage points on average in the final three byelections of the 1987-92 Parliament which were held on the

council by-elections over the past three months to 30 per months before polling day. cent, from 24 per cent in the But in Wirral South the Tory late summer. The Tories' plight is desperate, and John Major yesterday share dropped by 16.5 points, only nine weeks before the likely polling day. No party has ever experienced nearly

implicitly accepted that unless opinion changed there would be a Labour government. General dissatisfaction with the Government and "a time 6 Major has implicitly

there will be a Labour government 9

accepted that, unless

opinion changes,

for a change" mood have offset greater optimism about the economy. Recent polls have suggested that the Tories are persuading people that they have the best policies for managing the economy. But while the economy should help the Tories to narrow the may not be enough.

The Tories can only resort to

a mood of fear, to scare wavering voters back to the fold by warning what a Blair government might do. That lies behind the stark "wake up" call made yesterday by Mr Major and other senior ministers. Warning of a "midsummer nightmare", Mr Ma-

jor yesterday focused on the

early summer Budget prom-ised by Gordon Brown to claim that Labour would put up taxes and interest rates. Of course, a reelected Tory government would almost certainly have to raise interest rates and most economists believe any Chancellor would have to tighten fiscal policy after the election.

The Tories will continue to challenge Labour over its public spending and tax pledges.
The Wirral South result confirms the strength of the public desire for a change, even if many voters are still uncertain how much difference a Blair government can make. The general election is

PETER RIDDELL



John Major and his wife Norma during their visit to Scotland yesterday

## 'Nightmare will follow a Labour election victory' By Shirley English

JOHN MAJOR raised the prospect yesterday of a "mid-summer nightmare" following a Labour general election

The Prime Minister, speak-ing to Tories in Scotland, said: Last night's result won't affect people's lives. Next time it will. The next time people go to the polls their cross will determine their future. We can build on the successful economy people have created or we can take a wrong turning. One cross is all it would take."

Predicting that a Labour government would be "the beginning of the break-up of Britain", he said: "Britain could be just weeks away from midsummer nightmare. That is the reason why next time it is serious."

The glitzy "party for the party", the biggest ever Conservative fundraising event organised before the date of the by-election was known. Party activists admitted the timing was "unfortunate".

Around 1,250 guests from every constituency bar four in Scotland gathered at the Moat House hotel in Glasgow to hear the Prime Minister at a dinner and cabaret. It is believed to be the last such event before the election and was meant to be an up-beat celebration to fortify party workers for the struggle. The Tories are on to ten seats in Scotland and some Cabinet ministers, including Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, risk losing their seats.

Mr Major, accompanied by his wife, Norma, put on a brave face as he arrived at the party in gusting wind and greeted by the sound of bagpipes. But he refused to answer questions.

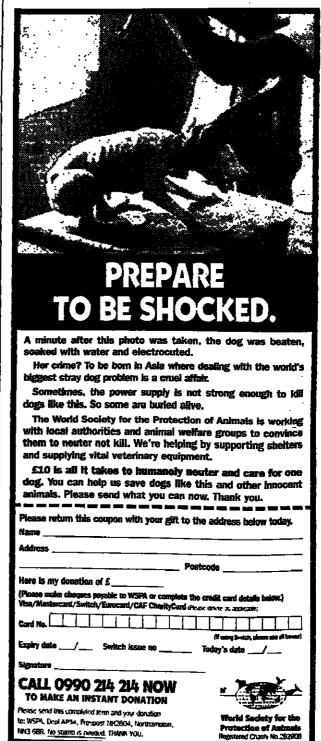
Earlier in the day he had flown into Prestwick airport to meet 250 representatives from the Ayr constituency, including Phil Gallie, Ayr MP, who has a majority of just 85.

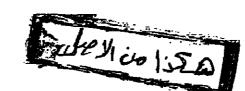
He spent an hour talking to local Conservatives, after which one of them, Margaret Black, neatly paraphrased his message. "He told us to get off our backsides and work and warned us of the dangers of

possible defeat." She insisted that despite the circumstances Mr Major was cheerful and enthusiastic throughout. Just a handful of local people had gathered to catch a glimpse of the prime minister but the small clutch of supporters were not as vocal as a group of football fans who heckled him as he hurried through the reception.



Offers subject to availability.





the backside. Yesterday's vote

did not change the face of

Britain but a similar vote at a

general election would change

the face of Britain and break

up Britain, the Britain that we

"We have got to hammer louder. We have got to ham-mer harder. The Tory

fightback begins here."

## Labour's new MP wakes up to sweet taste of success

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A SLIGHTLY bewilderedlooking Ben Chapman, the triumphant new MP for Wirral South, toasted his victory at a champagne breakfast yesterday before touring the constituency in an open-top

Freshly bathed and dressed in a pin-striped suit, Mr Chapman seemed tired but happy at the al fresco celebration with his three daughters. two sisters and the media. He had barely had time for a couple of hours sleep since being engulied by his supporters to the tune of Tina Turner's Simply the Best at the victory party in Port Sunlight.

He was joined for breakfast by John Prescott, the deputy party leader, who was altogether more lively, urging the new MP's daughter Clare to shake the champagne bottle in grand prix fashion and spray the photographers jostling for position in the crowded back garden of the Chapman home in Lower Heswall.

"Say 18 per cent," he shouted, using slightly dubious mathematics to calculate the unexpectedly large swing to Labour. Mr Prescott was

As Mr Chapman prepared for his victory parade, the

Clor

THEMESURE Ben Chapman (Lab) 22,767 14,879 Les Byrom (C) Flo Clucas (Lib Dem) Richard North (UK Inc)

Total vote 43,293 Turnout 73% Harold Sence (Company Director) 184; Michael Cullen (Socialist Lebour) 156; Philip Gott (Disillusioned Conserraus, Franço Gott (Disiliusioned Conservatives - Campaign for Change) 148; Roger Taylor (Ind) 132; Samuelson Anthony (Stop Conservatives Poncing on Tobacco Companies) 124; Geoffrey Mead (Natural Law) 52; Colin Palmer (21st Century Independent Foresters) 44; Frederick Asbury (Thallocmide Action Group UK) 40

1992 general election: Barry Porter (C. 25,590); Helen Southworth (Lab. 17,407); Ed Curnitte (LD, 8,581). Con-servative majority: 8,183.

trenches. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, flanked by the failed candidate, Les Byrom, arrived at the Thornton Hall Hotel - scene of so many skirmishes during the campaign - to declare: The fightback starts here."

His message that the Tory party must work tirelessly, ceaselessly to wake up Britain to the dangers of reproducing Thursday's result at the general election was interpreted by Labour as an insulting message to the voters - that they are too fickle to realise what they are voting for

Labour's celebrations began

at 1.30am yesterday, when Mr Chapman was returned with a 7.888 majority as the MP for Wirral South, formerly a solid Tory seat, in succession to the late Barry Porter. The size of the victory was beyond most Labour strategists' predictions and their only disappointment was the paucity of Labour supporters in the hall. The cheers were muted.

"Stab the air in triumph," urged one desperate photographer. Mr Chapman, who sometimes appears too retiring to be a politician, waved his hand weakly.

His daughter Bridget, 25, who handles "indie" bands as production manager for Polydor Records, said of her father: "I am very proud of him. It will be a nine-week long party and it will end in another victory. There's nothing he can't handle." He was whisked to Hulme

Hall, in Port Sunlight, where the Labour Party volunteers and workers had been celebrating in bitter and lager for some hours. The sea of bodies parted as Mr Chapman entered and walked to the rostrum. "New Labour isn't coming home," he said to cheers. "New labour is home."

"Everybody I talked to Then he added: "I am thought long and hard about hoping somebody will buy me their decision. They switched a pint." He got his wish, after because they were unhappy several more photo-opportuniand fed up with the Tory

filled hall, at 2.50am.

Mr Chapman is anxious not

to go down in history as one of

the shortest-serving MPs. He

insisted that that will not

happen. "It is a very large

majority, a very large swing,"

Government, their leadership and policies."

هدا من الاعليد

Before climbing on board the "New Labour, New Britain" bus, he said that he would be delighted to make his maiden speech in support of a motion of no confidence in the Government. "Whenever a suitable opportunity arises we will be quick to seize it," he

At Thornton Hall Hotel, Mr Byrom was being introduced

as the next Tory MP for Wirral South for the next 25 years, with a nine-week delay. Mr Howard, insisting that everyone look to the future, delivered a more pungent message. We will spend every minute

between now and the general election waking this country up to the risks they will run. the damage they will suffer from a Labour government," he said.

Leading article, page 25 "The people of Wirral used

This is a political uprising, says Blair

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

TONY BLAIR predicted yesterday that a "political uprising" will sweep his Labour MPs into once-safe Tory seats at the general election.

The Labour leader urged activists to seize on the Wirral South by-election victory and make further inroads into Tory heartiands across the country. He said that Wirral South was the 131st most marginal Tory constituency and the result proved that former Tory voters were prepared to trust Labour.

The result is nothing short of a political uprising against the Tories. People say 'You can't win some of the safest Tory heartlands in the country. In this past couple of years we have proved that to be wrong. We have won seats in local government and byelections and across every

single part of Britain." Mr Blair used his speech to the Weish Labour conference in Llandudno to emphasise that the party must be committed to the new policies. We will run for office as New Labour. We will govern as New Labour. No going back to the past. No out of date

dogma of Right or Left.
"We must show that we deserve to win, and keep on building the bond of trust that allows us to do so day in and day out, patiently, carefully and sensibly "

## Major discarded chairman's advice

By Jul Sherman, chief political correspondent

THE Wirral South by-election would not have been held this year had the Prime Minister taken his party chairman's advice. Tory insiders said vesterday. After the death of Barry

Porter, the sitting Tory MP, on 3 November 1996, a group of party strategists at Conservative Central Office argued that the by-election should be held un December 12, December 19 or not at all. The group included David Willetts, then Paymaster General, Danny Finkelstein, director of the research department, and Michael Simmonds, special adviser to Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman. They convinced Dr Mawhinney that a snap by election would be much less damaging than wairing until spring 1997. None of the strategists predicted a Tory win, but they hoped to avoid the "wipe-out" headlines of yesterday. They based their case on

three main factors. The May 1996 council results in the Wirral had not been as bad as death, he changed his mind.

the rest of the country and an early by-election would go virtually unnoticed. Both the other main parties had candidate trouble late last year. The Liberal Democrats had to change twice and Labour brought in Ben Chapman at a late stage. The strategists also argued that a Christmas byelection would have resulted in a low turn-out. The swing may have been as bad but the Labour majority smaller.

Dr Mawhinney was convinced by the strategy and put it to John Major. But the party Goodlad, vetoed the idea. They argued that Mr Major could not afford to limp on with a minority government.

Mr Major sided with his whips and apparently agreed that the by-election should not be held. But as May I became his favoured date for the general election, and after Labour accused him of being prepared to defy the convention of holding a by-election with three months of an MP's



The victorious Ben Chapman, left, and John Prescott touring Wirral South in new Labour's battle bus

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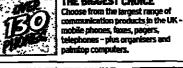
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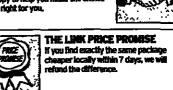
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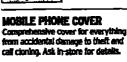
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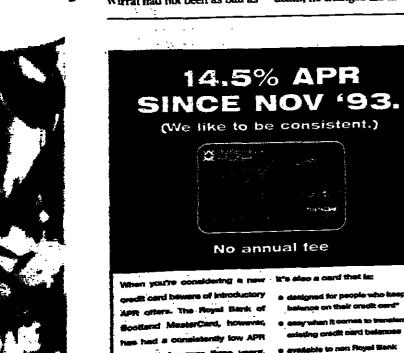


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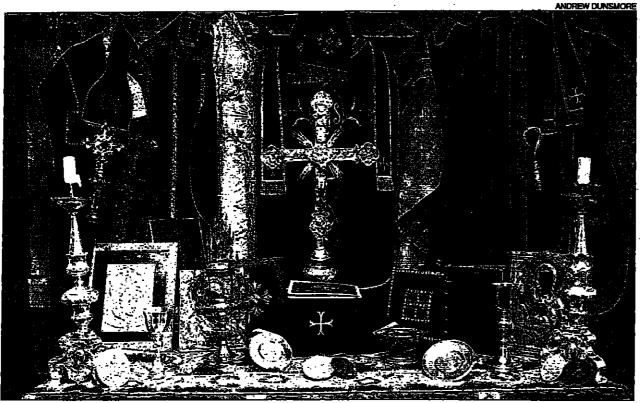
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A small sample of the religious artefacts packed into the flat. Police said there were enough to equip two churches

## £500,000 church treasure fills flat

STOLEN religious items valued at more than £500,000 have been recovered by Scotland Yard detectives from a flat in north London.

They include vestments, paintings and a bishop's mitre taken from Westminster Cathedral that officials did not know was

Police, who suspect that many churches

will be in a similar position, are hoping that Church authorities and historians will be able to identify the stolen items. They are thought to have been taken from churches and cathedrals throughout the

According to police officers, the onebedroom council flat in Camden Town was piled high with enough stolen items

to equip several churches. They included Russian and Greek icons, 18th-century gold plate, books and finely decorated religious clothing made from damask silk or velvet and embroidered with gold and

Special drawers were built in the flat to hold some of the material. The rest was neatly stacked or folded.

## We need the wilderness to find our way back to faith

The wilderness is where the Faith of Creation still reigns supreme. Forty days and forty nights

Thou was fasting in the wild is a wonderful hymn for the solemn season of Lent. For the working masses in the new industrial towns the words of this hymn linked their way of life through that of their rural forefathers to the wilderness. which had been tamed by

Some 400 years before that first Lenten fast, Plato had founded the world's first university in a grove. In The Phaedrus he tells how Socrates was found wandering in Athens. Phaedrus manages to persuade him to leave the fown and stroll out to a grove by the river.

Socrates is overwhelmed by its beauty. Chastening himself for having been unaware of what nature had to offer the thinker, he begs forgiveness for having presumed that as "a lover of learning - trees and open country won't teach me anything, whereas men in

The remains of Plato's Academy have just been discovered under a car park not

far from the British Embassy in Athens, a city that is now choking on exhaust fumes. Perhaps that says it all, reiterating these words of Walter Lippmann: The deep and abiding traditions

of religion belone

to the countryside. For it is there that man earns his daily bread by submitting to superhuman forces whose behaviour he can only partially control.

"There is not much he can do when he has plowed the ground and planted his seed except to wait hopefully for sun and rain from the sky. He is obviously part of a scheme that is greater than himself, subject to elements that transcend his powers and surpass his understanding.

"The city is an acid which dissolves this piety. Yet without piety .. there can be no disposition to believe in an external order of things. The

omninotence of God means something to men who submit daily to the cycles of weather and the mysterious powers of nature' Sadly today,

from behind our

triple glazing we

David Bellamy

may be tempted to regard the sanctity of wilderness as unimportant. Indeed little of it is left, even places that were until recently marked as Terra Incognita on the maps of the world are being loved to death by uncontrolled tourism.

Likewise the rural landscapes that once sustained the soul are being suburbanised and the Silent Spring predicted by Rachel Carson is sowing harvests of discontent from mountain top to inshore

Back to that Lenten hymn

Forty days and forty nights Tempted, and yet undefiled Surely the time has come

faiths to lead the way once more. The teachings of Islam proclaim the case of wilderness and biodiversity. Sura 22 aya 18 of the Koran states "that God treasures all creatures, not least for their ability to worship and praise him". Israel, following the teaching of the Talmud, is bent on putting the Negev back into

working order. Here in Britain, perhaps the Churches might lead the way by taking advantage of all that is on offer from the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, the Farming and Wildlife Group, the Henry Doubleday Association and their Women's Institutes and put their income firmly where

their faith should be. The wilderness is a place of wonder, a chance to be alone with God. A place to ponder on the love of God and the folly of humankind.

☐ David Bellamy is a botanist, academic, author and President of the Conserva-tion Foundation. He is standing in Huntingdon for the Referendum Party in the general election.

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## Convent closes as Ireland turns its back on Church

By Nicholas Watt, Chief Ireland Correspondent

ONE of Ireland's oldest Carmelite monasteries, where nuns have led reclusive lives since 1823, is to close because of a sharp decline in vocations. The fate of the Dublin community is a dramatic illustration of the waning influence of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland.

Seven elderly sisters, who cut themselves off from the outside world when they joined the convent in the suburb of Blackrock, have begun to disperse to some of the 11 other Carmelite monasteries throughout the country. As Ireland undergoes a

social revolution by relaxing laws on abortion and legalising divorce, young people are finding the strictures of the Church irrelevant to their lives. The number of priests, nuns and brothers in schools has halved in the past scandals involving priests has undermined the authority of

the Church.

The Blackrock Monastery will close its doors this summer after the number of sisters fell from a maximum of 22. years of retirement. Sister Therese, the prioress, said: "We are conscious of the " fact that we have been here for 174 years and it is sad to have to leave the home you have

lived in for so long. We have made that decision to leave because we felt it was God's will."

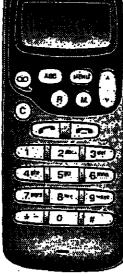
The monastery, which is on a site worth several million pounds, will be sold. Father John Fitzoatrick: the priest for religious orders in the Dublin Archdiocese, when asked why so few women wanted to become sisters, said: "I was going to say, 'Ask God that'. Young people are not responding to religious vocations like

they used to.
"When I started 33 years ago there were very, very few options if one wanted to give one's life to the wellbeing of others. Now there are very many options to help."

The decline in vocations has led to fears within the Church that it is losing its grip on Ireland's education system. The Conference of Religious of were 2,300 monks and nuns teaching in secondary schools in 1969-70, a third of the teaching force. By 1992-93 the figure had declined to 1,000, of whom a third were within ten

> Godforsaken architecture, -Magazine, page 14 At Your Service, Weekend, page !!



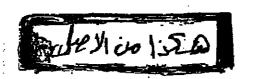


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## Tests prove cathedral's bones are not St David

BY RUTH GLEDHILL RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

BONES thought to be those of St David, patron saint of Wales, have been carbondated and found to be the wrong age by at least four centuries.

The bones, discovered by stonemasons in the walls of St David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire, more than 100 years ago, had been kept in a wooden casket in the cathedral.

A notice said that they were reputed to be those of St David and of St Justinian. But scientists in the carbon-dating unit at Oxford University, who proved the Turin Shroud to be a fake, have established that the bones date from the 11th or 12th century — at least 400 years after St David is believed to have died.

The findings have been released as the Welsh celebrate St David's Day today. many wearing the national symbol of the leek. St David. who died in about 600, ate nothing but bread, salt and

The research confirmed long-held suspicions among many Welsh church leaders that the bones were not those of St David but of St Caradog. a saint of noble birth who died in 1124 and was buried at St

dreds of others, in the 16th century.

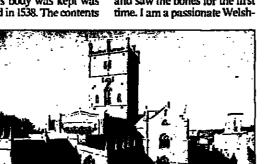
When the bones were discovered in a wooden casket during a Victorian restoration, they were claimed for St David by William Williams, Dean of St David's from 1891 to 1931, in spite of opposition from within his own church. The bones were those of a tall man and according to legend St David was more than off.

Scentics believed that St David's bones had been irretrievably lost after the shrine where his body was kept was

of the shrine, two silver head reliquaries, a silver arm reliquary and a worm-eaten book thought to be an early copy of the Gospels, were not with the bones in the casket.

Until the scientific investigation, filmed by HTV, the bones had never been taken out of the cathedral. Professor Bernard Knight, the forensic pathologist who investigated the Cromwell Street murders, studied them with Len Nokes, a biochemist, and Colin Dent. an orthopaedic surgeon,

Professor Knight said: "It was a momentous occasion when we opened the casket and saw the bones for the first time. I am a passionate Welsh-



St David's Cathedral: bones not those of patron saint

man. To touch the bones of someone who is a Welsh saint was tremendous."

Dr Nokes, who requested permission to investigate the remains after a holiday in Wales last year, had thought the bones to be those of an ordinary canon or vicar choral. When the bones proved to be 11th or 12th century and those of someone whose diet consisted largely of fish, the evidence pointed to St Caradog. He was a hermit living on Newgale beach and survived on fish. "Not St David, not St Justinian, but nevertheless a Welsh saint - it

The present dean, the Very Rev John Wyn Evans, a trained archaeologist, said: The bones are medieval. I had never believed they were the bones of St David." He did not believe the discovery would affect the cathedral, which is still a

was fantastic," Dr Nokes said.

centre of pilgrimage, attracting 300,000 visitors a year. The vast majority come because of the connection with St David and because of the spiritual atmosphere we have." A new notice is to be put up. stating that the bones are probably those of St Caradog.



Richard Tomes with cartoon and Mel Calman award in London yesterday



## Tree surgeon pockets Times cartoon title

THE winner of this year's Young Cartoonist of the Year competition is Richard Tomes, 29, a former tree surgeon from Solihull, West Midlands. Mr Tomes, who has had works accepted by magazines including The Oldie and Punch, beat off 100 competitors to win £1,000 and a Dictionary of Cartoonists and Caricaturists, 1730-1900. The competition is run by The Times and the British

Cartoonists Association in memory of Mei Calman, The Times's pocket cartoonist for

## Stress is linked to brain damage

By JEREMY LAURANCE

HIGH levels of stress may cause permanent brain damage, a psychiatrist says. Studies in people and rats show that raised levels of cortisol, a hormone produced in response to stress, harm an area of the brain called the hippocampus, which is linked to learning and memory.

Stress endured over a lifetime may hasten the onset of Alzheimer's disease and account for the forgetfulness associated with ageing, Dr John O'Brien, consultant in old age psychiatry, says.

Writing in the Journal of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, Dr O'Brien says that the brains of rats given injections of cortisol have shown a loss of nerve cells in the hippocampus area. Patients with Cushing's disease, which overproduces cortisol, experience shrinkage of the hippo-

Dr O'Brien, of Newcastle University, said that most research was based on the effects of severe and prolonged stress. But it was theoretically possible that stress endured by the average individual could be damaging.

## **Partnership** scheme to save rare butterflies

By NICK NUTTALL

A SCHEME to save two of Britain's rarest butterflies from extinction was launched yesterday by conservationists with backing from govern-ment and industry.

The pearl-bordered fritillary and the large blue, an internationally rare insect, are the first of 115 British species of plant and animals to be listed by the Department of the Environment under the Biodiversity Partnerships scheme, which is aimed at winning corporate backing for rare species.

The large blue became extinct in Britain in 1979 but was re-introduced into five sites in 1983 using butterflies from Sweden. Under the scheme, backed by ICI and the charity Butterfly Conservation and by organisations such as the Institute of Terres trial Ecology, it will be reintroduced into at least 10 new sites by 2005, ICI has also pledged £110,000 to provide new habitats for the pearlbordered fritillary. The butterfly is undergoing rapid decline, apparently due to the decline of traditional coppicing of woodlands.

# 

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attend independent schools. Killing this scheme would achieve nothing, in fact, it would take seven years to phase it out, by which time New Labour would still be £265 million short of the money they need to cut class sizes. (Source: Institute of Public Finance) Meanwhile they would have damaged the education of up to 65,000 poor children. (The

The assisted places scheme makes it possible for children from low-income families to

\_ cut class sizes to 30 or under for 5, 6 ←

and 7 year-olds by using money saved

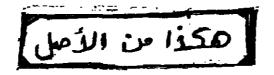
from the assisted places scheme <

average child in the scheme comes from a family with an income of only £10,900.)

Do these children really benefit? They certainly do. They achieve results up to 3 grades higher at A-level. (Source: London School of Economics) These tangible results would be thrown away simply because of prejudice against non-State education. Frankly, this kind of thinking is as out of date as Clause Four. Most Labour voters want success not envy. That's why 55% of them are in favour of the assisted places scheme and only 27% are against It. (Source: MORI)

For the sake of some of Britain's most promising children, help us persuade New Labour to abandon this policy before the election. We have nothing against a New Labour government - just this pointless policy. Please let us pass on your views to your MP. Write to us at Friends of Independent Schools, 56 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6AG.

Parental Choice Matters



## Kohl's allies join Wehrmacht protest march in the footsteps of Hitler

PROTESTING against an exhibition that critically assesses the German Army's wartime role, farright radicals, army veterans and their supporters in the Bavarian Christian Social Union will today march through Munich. In a deliberately provocative gesture, they will retrace part of the route taken by Hitler, Goering and other early Nazis in the unsuccessful

heerhall putsch of 1923. Violent clashes have almost

Greens and declared "anti-fascists" will be making a countermarch, while Social Democrats and Unionists will hold a third demonstration. Bavarian police have been put on full alert but by Friday afternoon neo-Nazi sympathisers from many parts of Germany and Austria were al-

ready arriving in the city.

The liberal German press has strongly criticised Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister who is also chairman of the CSU, for not reining in his party members. They will be swelling protesters' numbers, further blurring the boundaries between the party -Chancellor Kohl's coalition partner - and the far Right.

The target of the protests is a roving exhibition which, after causing a mild stir in the rest of Germany, has arrived in Munich. the cradle of the National Socialist movement of the 1930s. The exhibition goes a long way towards destroying the myth that the Wehrmacht was innocent of the crimes committed during the Third Reich -- cleaner at any rate Dozens of partisans - or civilians described as such - are shown strung up like chickens in Russia and Poland; Wehrmacht soldiers are seen putting nooses around the necks of the victims.

Although historians have long known about Wehrmacht crimes, Germans have been reluctant to discuss them. About 18 million men served in the German army, most out of a sense of patriotic duty, some against their will.

CSU politicians, and above all the ambitious Munich lawyer

Peter Gauweiler, believe the exhibition brands these 18 million people and their families as criminals. It therefore revives the idea of some form of collective guilt for Germans and undermines their claim to be free of the past. Herr Gauweiler has gained much support in Bavaria for his campaign and was joined by hundreds when, instead of attending the opening of the exhibition, he laid candles at

the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The CSU leadership is reluctant to trim Herr Gauweiler's sails because there is the real prospect tion of a single currency, he will try to launch a breakaway right-wing party modelled on the Freedom Party led by his Austrian friend,

Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian Prime Minister, has therefore been treading a cautious path in the. controversy, admitting there was evidence that crimes were committed at every level of the German army but accusing the exhibition organisers - a group of historians centred on the liberally-minded tobacco tycoon Jan Philipp

ported generalisations.

There is not likely to be much orderly discussion today as Herr Gauweiler leads his protesters into Munich's Marienplatz. Almost 64 years ago Hitler and 3,000 Nazis heading for the same square were blocked by about 100 policemen; shots rang out, Goering was wounded and the Nazis had their first martyrs. Times have, of course, changed but the site of the weekend demonstration has a magnetic appeal for right-wing extremists.

RADU SIGHETI / REUTER

## Art forgeries ring in northern Italy smashed by police

FROM PHILIP WILLAN IN ROME

ITALIAN finance police said yesterday that they had cracked an art forgery ring in northern Italy which had sold paintings falsely attributed to artists such as Titian, Matisse and Picasso to collectors, galleries and possibly museums in Europe and Asia.

Some fakes had been promised to British buyers, the investigators said. Thirty-two people have been warned that they are under investigation over the scam, believed to have netted the forgers millions of pounds.

The investigation, codenamed Operation Titian, began in August with the discovery in Biella, northwest of Milan, of a bronze bas-relief falsely attributed to Giacomo Manzu, the Italian sculptor,

THE Pope appointed a delegate yesterday to discipline a Roman Catholic religious

order after the popular maga-

zine that the monks publish

called for liberalisation of the

Church's thinking on pornog-

raphy, masturbation and

The crackdown on the mid-

dle-of-the-road Paoline Order

follows the controversial deci-

sion by the Vatican to excom-

municate a Sri Lankan priest.

and has led many at the Holy

See to ask whether the ageing

homosexuality.

which was about to be sold to a

private collector for 100 million lire (£37,000). Police said the gang was organised by a Milanese art dealer, who used contacts among restorers, gallery owners and auctioneers to

approach potential buyers. We found documentation that an incredible number of works of art have already been bought by unwitting collectors and perhaps even by foreign museums," said Colonel Elio Cirillo of the finance police anti-fraud unit. Hundreds of fake paintings, false authentication papers and rubber stamps were seized by police.

Investigators said that gang members procured old paintings by "the school" of a great master and falsely attributed them to the master. A painting

pontiff is being used by con-servative hardliners in the

The attempt to censor the

throughout Italy, was an-

nounced by the director of the

Vatican press office, Joaquin

Vatican, sources say.

Navarro-Valls.

tions by the order.

'Porn monks' censured

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

of a Madonna and Child by the school of Titian was about to be sold as a Titian for about £1.5 million rather than the £9,000 it was worth. A Repentant Mary Magda-

len, bought by the gang for E5,000, was about to be passed on to an unwary buyer as a Guido Reni - worth almost £200,000. Other fakes were obtained by copying real works or creating new ones in the style of famous painters such as Picasso and Toulouse-Lautrec. Some had been used as collateral for bank loans.

Police said papers authenticating the works had been produced on old paper using an ancient typewriter and the forged signature of long-dead. art experts. Others bore the signatures of still living art historians and police are investigating the possibility that some may have been accomplices of the forgers.

The scandal comes after a series of blows to the prestige of the Italian art world, including The Times's revelation of the illegal export of art works from the country by employcontent of Famiglia Cristiees of Sotheby's and the disana, which is sold in parishes covery last week of the theft from a gallery in Piacenza of an important Portrait of a Lady by the Viennese artist Gustav Klimt.

That painting was to have The delegate, Mgr Antonio Buoncristiani, the Bishop of been the highlight of an art exhibition in the city, which is Porto-Santa Rufina, was givcontrol of Famiglia still decorated with posters Cristiana and other publicashowing the missing work in



Former King Michael, with his wife, Ana, right, and daughter, Princess Margareta, are greeted on their arrival in Bucharest yesterday

## Former King weeps as Romania welcomes him

By MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FIFTY years after he was forced to abdicate at gunpoint by the Communists, former King Michael of Romania was welcomed home by the new non-communist

The 75-year-old former monarch, the last Second World War head of state who is still alive, was greeted effusively at the airport and handed a Romanian passport. Tears streamed down his face as his former chauffeur met him, as well as hundreds of politicians and cultural figures. His arrival was broad-

cast live on television. Thousands of people shouting "King Michael" and "King and Country" surrounded him later in the central University Square in Bucharest where dozens of demonstrators died in the uprising that toppled the Ceausescu dictatorship in

The former King, who lives in exile in Switzerland, has twice tried to return since then, but was either turned back at the airport or shunned

by a nervous neo-communist Government. Yesterday he shook hands with hundreds of well-wishers and mounted a pedestal honouring those killed in 1989. He and his wife, Ana of Bourbon Parma, stood in the back of a car while hundreds of people, with his portrait pinned on their lapels,

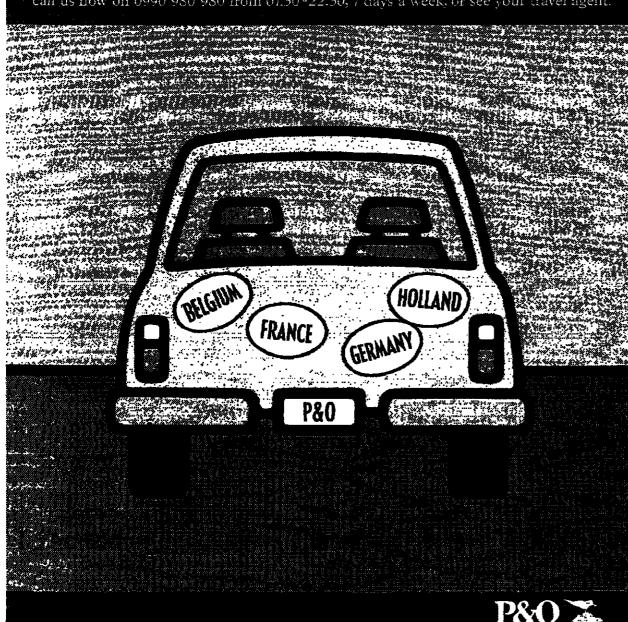
strained to see him. The former King, a tall,

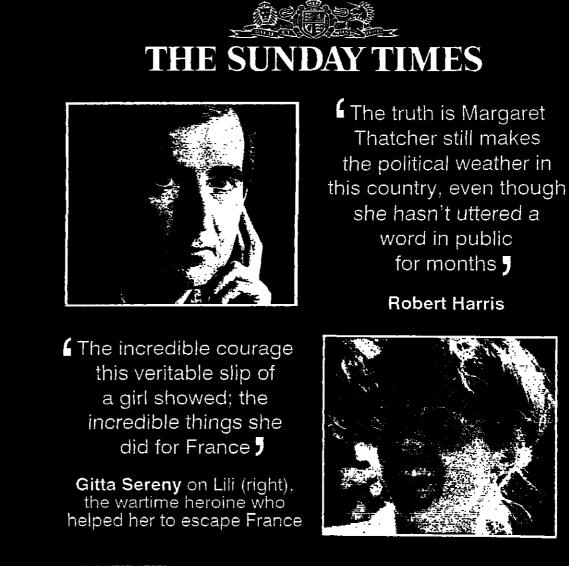
recognised the legality of his expulsion, will be received by President Constantinescu and Victor Ciorbea, the Prime Minister, during his five-day private visit.

The former King's visit is private and he has promised to abide by the 1991 Constitution which stipulates that Romania is a republic.

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**Robert Harris** 

Thatcher still makes

she hasn't uttered a

word in public for months

Government has less to do — no empire, no nationalised industries. many old functions contracted out --- so it ought to do it better

Ferdinand Mount

**Tomorrow in News Review** THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

## Kremlin begins to bargain over Nato expansion

By Michael Binyon, diplomatic editor, and Charles Bremner in brussels

YEVGENI PRIMAKOV, the Russian Foreign Minister, arrived in London yesterday with a clear mandate to start bargaining over Nato's enlargement,

After a morning of talks with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, he told a packed meeting of the Royal Institute for International Affairs that he was a realist. Nato was unlikely to halt its plans, but these should not affect Russia's bilateral relations with other countries. "We want to minimise the negative processes which will be created by the enlargement of Nato," he said.

In return. Russia wanted a binding document that defined the terms of Nato's consultation mechanism with Moscow and the common decision-making process. It should guarantee that Nato would not deploy nuclear weapons in any country close to the Russian border, nor set up storage areas or rocket or missiles launch sites.

He said Russia wanted this document to be legally binding - something Washington is resisting - and it must. therefore, be ratified by all 16 Nato members. This was no more difficult, he said, than having the enlargement process itself ratified by the

present alliance members. Russia, he said, saw Nato

defending a legitimate national interest. Mr Primakov admitted that any country had the right to join any organisation, and Russia had no right of veto. But he made clear that, in their hearts, Russians still did not accept enlargement. It would affect the morale and psychology of the country and bolster the position of hardliners.

Mr Primakov also accused the West of deception. Six years ago, when attempting to get Soviet troops withdrawn from East Germany, Western leaders told President Gorbachev that there was no question of allowing former members of the Warsaw Pact into Nato. Now the West had gone back on its promise which Mr Primakov regretted had never been written down.

He warned Western leaders not to "play the Ukrainian card" in trying to stir up trouble between Russia and its former Soviet republics. Closer integration of the former Soviet Union was "inevitable" and was going smoothly. Russia was not pushing this out of imperial ambition: the momentum came from the former republics themselves.

He gave a warning that Russia was deliberately turning its attention away from the West to concentrate foreign policy more on areas such as China, India, Japan, Latin expansion as a threat to its security and was, therefore. America and the Middle East, security and was, therefore. On Iran, he said that it was a

great mistake to try to liquidate a generally disliked regime. Moscow wanted to show Tehran that there was light at the end of the tunnel.

Mr Primakov arrived in London from Brussels, where he had intensive talks on Nato. Western diplomats are convinced that President Yeltsin has decided it is possible to reach an accord. There has clearly been a decision by Yeltsin to negotiate," a senior European diplomat at Nato said vesterday as Javier Solana, the Secretary-General, prepared to hold talks in Moscow next week.

pation for alliance officials as the bloc prepares to absorb a new group, which is expected to comprise Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary. Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin are expected to agree

on an outline of a Nato-Russia

pact on March 20 in Helsinki.

Assuaging Russian hostility

has become the key preoccu-

A convoy of six special containers of radioactive waste assembles at a nuclear plant near the southwest German town of Walheim

yesterday. Demonstrators

were preparing a campaign

of protest to hinder the

journey, starting on Mon-

## Nuclear convoy alert

هدا من الإعليم

northern Germany. About 30,000 police were expected to provide protection on the trip. The containers, known as Castors (Casks for Storactive material) were brought to the southwest German town of Walheim under heavy police protec-

Neckarwestheim power station, two from France and one from the Gundremmingen power station in Bavaria. The two containers from France crossed into Germany in mid-morning by rail carrying German nuclear waste. (AFP)

## **UN** chief seeks new force for Zaire

By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

KOFI ANNAN, the United Nations Secretary-General. called on member states yesterday to revive the plan for a multinational force in Zaire.

Last year, contingency planning was carried out to rescue Rwandan Hutu refugees caught up in the civil war in eastern Zaire. The operation was to have been led by a Canadian general, However, it was abandoned when hundreds of thousands of Hutu refugees suddenly emerged from the deep forests in east-ern Zaire and crossed the border into Rwanda.

Mr Annan said he hoped to persuade countries to reconsider sending troops into the area because of the humanitarian crisis. There have been reports of massacres of Rwandan Hutus in the area where Tutsi rebels are fighting Zairean government forces. Mr Annan said countries

had not shown enough political will to send the force, which was approved by UN resolution last year.

## Yeltsin acts to outlaw capital punishment

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin took the been accused by human first concrete step yesterday towards ending the death penalty in Russia, ordering the Foreign Ministry to sign an international protocol on the abolition of capital

The him

**30** P

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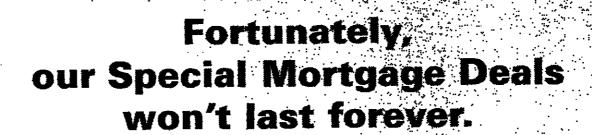
punishment. Interfax news agency said that Mr Yeltsin's decision to make Russia a signatory to Protocol b of the Human Rights and Basic Freedoms Convention was taken on the advice of the Russian Su-

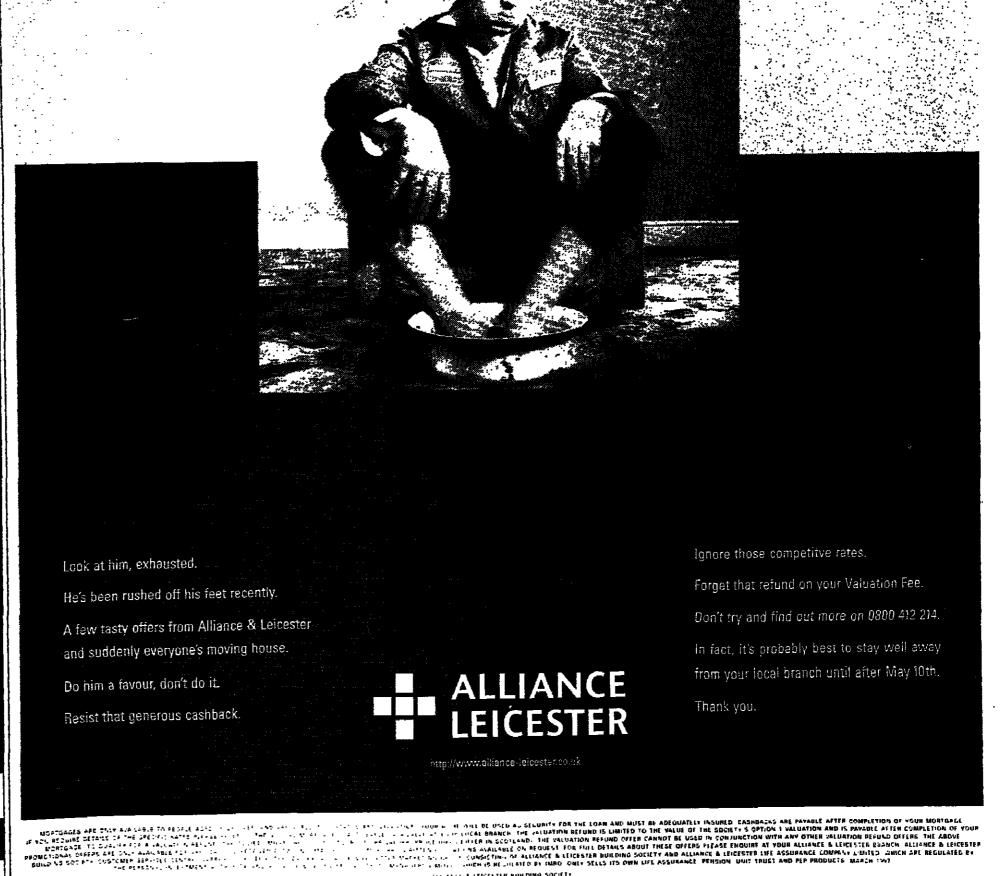
oreme Court. The move will come into force after ratification by the Justice Ministry and thusbypass draft legislation on the abolition of capital punishment, which has been gather-ing dust at the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, for months with little prospect of approval. Russia has been committed to the abolition of the death penalty since it joined the Council of

rights activists of dragging its

Earlier this month the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe expressed its concern that Russia was failing to fulfil its obligations on capital punishment and noted that 62 executions were carried out in Russia in 1996. The assembly warned Russia that it could face suspension

from the Council of Europe. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the reaffirmed Russia's determination to fulfil its obligations. "If we signed it, we will abide by it," he said, before adding ominously that "there have been cases of late where it was impossible not to execute people". One difficulty in ensuring Russia's compliance lies in the tight secrecy that surrounds the carrying out of death sentences. Even the victim's close family are not





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Drug war

imperils

Mexican

link to US

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI JUST hours before the Clinton Administration was due to

"certify" which countries are co-operating in the war on

drugs, Mexican officials said

they have arrested a top drug trafficker, Oscar Malherbe de

León, head of the Gulf cartel.

likely to alter the final verdict

on Mexico's collaboration, it

underlines the anxiety across

Latin America and the Carib-

bean over the stigma of "decer-

tification". But as Washington

debates the alleged failure of anti-drug efforts in countries

such as Mexico, Colombia.

Jamaica and Belize, the certifi-

cation process is arousing a

swelling chorus of disapprov

Many experts argue that

Washington's judgment, due

to be announced today, will

especially strain US relations with Latin America at a time when President Clinton is

Next month and in May, Mr

al across the region.

Although the arrest is un-

## Clinton phone call panic gives lie to funding calm

DESPITE a calm public demeanour, President Clinton has been making anguished late-night calls to fellow Democrats in Congress urging them not to betray him over the fundraising scandal.

The President is angered by demands within his own party for the appointment of an independent prosecutor to investigate foreign contributions to his re-election campaign, and his turning the White House into America's costliest bedand-breakfast establishment.

Last Monday Mr Clinton made a lam telephone call to Tom Daschle, rousing the Senate minority leader from his bed. Other members of the the Democratic senatorial committee also received irate nocturnal calls and terse reminders of the President's personal involvement in their own fundraising campaigns.

Mr Clinton's temper is leg-endary inside the White House, as is his regular habit of calling friends late into the night. But the image of an agitated President reprimanding his closest allies is one at complete odds with the calm portrait the White House has attempted to paint. And his Nixonian outbursts are a sign that the almost daily revelations regarding irregular fundraising are starting to take their toll

Mr Clinton's relations with Capitol Hill, already increasingly fraught, can only get more strained with disclosures yesterday that the FBI is investigating whether China



Daschle: roused from his bed by angry President

attempted to buy influence among Congress members through illegal contributions and payments from Chinesecontrolled businesses. Bob Woodward, the investigative journalist who helped to unearth Watergate, reported that the Bureau was focusing its inquiry on whether members of both parties had been improperly influenced.

During her recent visit to Beijing, Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, raised "concern" about any possible connection between the Chinese and improper attempts to influence American policy. Although the flames of the fundraising controversy spread from the Oval Office to Capitol Hill yesterday, the congressional aspect of the investigation appeared less serious than that surrounding the Clinton re-election campaign.

The Democratic National Committee is poised to return dozens of contributions, mostly from dubious Asian sources and amounting to nearly \$1.5 million (£925,926) - almost double the amount the organisation has already sent back.

Separately, the Los Angeles Times said that ten individuals at the centre of the scandal had given at least \$158,160 in campaign money to a batch of mainly Demo-cratic members of Congress, including Mr Daschle.

Since being awoken in the early hours. Mr Daschle has attempted to seize the moral high ground on behalf of Mr Clinton. He is demanding a commitment on campaign finance reform from Republi-cans before the Democrats will support funding for any Senate inquiry into White House abuses.

This highly public linking of the two issues is designed to exploit Republican divisions over fundraising. Senator John McCain supports both an independent counsel to investigate the White House and a campaign finance Bill, while Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader, does not favour the overhauling of the

However, Mr Clinton's frenzied telephone manner can only further incite Republican complaints that the Democrats are merely stalling. "It's just their excuse to gum up the works," said Rick Santorum, Republican senator for Pennsylvania.



## Lawyers catch a falling Broadway star

FROM QUENTIN LETTS

A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD actress who won a continent-wide American contest to sing on Broadway intends to sue the show for \$50 million (£31 million) after being dumped four weeks before the first

Joanna Pacitti's pretty face and vivacious stage presence charmed casting looking for a child to play the star of Annie, a multimillion-dollar restaging of the popular musical about orphans. This week, however, in the middle of a pre-Broadway tour. Joanna broke down in tears and sobbed like a discarded old

hoofer after being told that she was too wooden and no longer considered right for the part.

"It's not gonna be me coming down the stairs in my Annie dress and my red wig," she wailed. In the manner of a Sunset Boulevard diva, however, 4ft 9in Joanna, from Mayfair, Pennsylvania, did not settle for broken dreams and a tear-stained pillow. She and her parents consulted lawyers and have now fired off a suit which claims she was treated unfairly and stands to lose high earnings. She spent much of yesterday touring New York television studios to discuss

"I have been really hurt," she told the New York Post. "I want to do more things

be strong for my mother and dad, but we've all been hurt together."

Drying her eyes on the fateful day the news came, she declared her determination to "be a lot like Annie and keep my chin up - I gotta try and remember that I'm the real Annie." Reworking the words of an Annie songs, she vowed: The sun will come out tomorrow."

The lawsuit names the show's producers and also Macy's, the New York-based stores company which organised the "search for Annie" last summer. On tour. Joanna received decent notices and some New York cynics raised the possibility that the sacking of Joanna was an elaborate publicity stunt.

preparing his first trip to the region to promote a hemisphere-wide free trade pact. and some day go on Broadway. I have to Clinton is due to visit five countries, including Mexico,

Brazil and Argentina. This week José Angel Gurria, the Mexican Foreign Minister, called drug certification "an unnaceptable, unilateral" system that had the potential to "fracture" ties with Washington. Under decertification, the US can take away trade preferences and veto loans to those countries that fail to pass the test.

More so than in past years. the procedure is also being questioned sharply in the US. Some American officials privately express their opposition to what they say is an insulting and counter-productive practice at a time when they say that a more co-ordinated strategy is needed to tackle a worldwide problem. They also say America should judge its own anti-drug effort first and recognise existing problems of consumption and official corruption before seeking to pun-

ish the rest of the world. The policy, according to Robert Pastor, an adviser in Jimmy Carter's White House, has merely created an increase in pretended co-operation and a decrease in actual co-operation".

## Andes peasant farmers plough new furrow with heroin poppies

ants, wrapped in ponchos and



FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN HUILA, COLOMBIA

THE steep and remote Andean mountain slopes above the village of Huila in central Colombia are proving ideal for growing opium poppies.
Poppy fields planted in this

isolated region, more than 11,000ft above sea level. are now the source of more than 60 per cent of the heroin being shipped to the United States. The village is set in the cloud forests of the 17,875ft Huila mountain, about 95 miles from the coffee-growing town of Neiva.

Figures released by the American Embassy in Bogota show that Colombian growers are producing for cities on the US East Coast and are now vying for the European market, making them the first large-scale heroin suppliers in South America. Andean peasllama wool hats as they tend to their fields, have moved in on a trade previously controlled by growers in Asian countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and Thailand. Last year, Colombians produced 100 tonnes of the drug,

Peasants in the highlands are becoming tough rivals for the Asians and have taken over a large sector of the US heroin market," said Klaus Niholm, director of the United Nations Drugs Control Programme in Colombia.

The country has traditionally produced cocaine in areas such as Cali but bigger profits are to be made from heroin. It is difficult for government agencies to monitor plantations in the high Andean regions and popples thrive in the volcanic soil.

Alfonso Rodriguez, a peas-

ares of forest recently to expand his poppy plantation 100 miles from Huila, said: "At first we used to draw the sap and then hand it over to a middleman. But now we have learnt how to process the heroin ourselves to sell it."

ant who razed several hect-

He says he collects sap from his poppies at least three times a year and then manufactures heroin in a makeshift laboratory which he shares

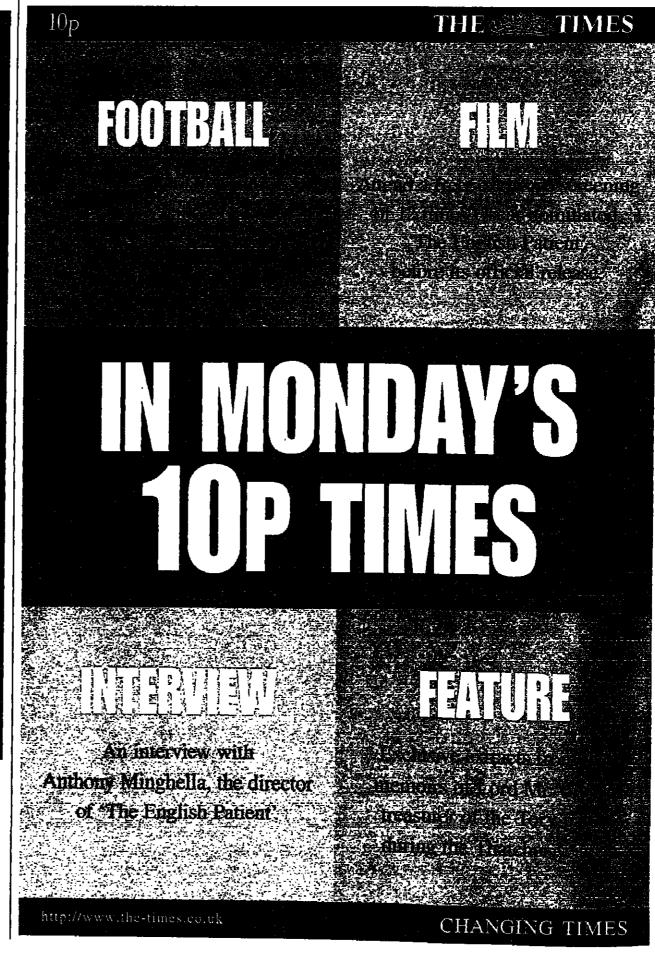
with neighbouring peasants. Most of the 50,000 inhabitants of Huila and the surrounding villages rely on heroin production. ☐ Bogotá: Inmates at Buga prison here have found an ingenious way to get marijua-

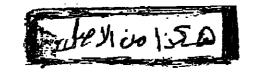
na. Police said yesterday that pigeons were transporting the drug to the jail about 240 miles east of Bogota, where prisoners would tiously feed them. (AFP)

Angeles

Our new Business and First Class airfares, Heathrow to Los Angeles, are now lower than any other airline." For more information call 0181 990 9900 or see your local travel agent.







## Go-getting Texas leader weighs up **Oval Office odds**

STANDING in his soaring white plastered office in the Texas state capitol, his left hand on a bronze sculpture of a Texas Longhorn, George Bush, the Governor, gestures in disapproval at the oil painting of Sam Houston, legendary first Governor of Texas.

In contrast to Mr Bush's wiry ligure, Houston stands barefoot in a Roman toga in front of classical ruins, his face puffed by alcohol and an overeventful life. "I keep that there to remind me that the only thing between doing your job well and making a complete fool of yourself is whisky."

The message of abstinence, personal responsibility and social conservatism has shot Mr Bush, son of George Bush. the former US President, to sudden popularity in Texas. With headlines like "The son also rises", pundits across the country are also asking whether the future of the Republican Party, struggling to rebuild itself after Bob Dole's uninspired presidential campaign. will once again go by the name of George Bush.

Elected unexpectedly two years ago against the popular incumbent Ann Richards, Mr Bush, 50, has made his mark with a combative go-getting energy that only occasionally falls short of charm. At a lunch for the Fort Bench Chamber of Commerce, the room is humming with big-shouldered bonhomic and cries of "How's life treating you, friend?" when the Governor hops up to the platform to argue the case



**Bronwen Maddox reports** from Austin on the hurdles and opportunities facing a political son with a household name

half the average body weight, he nods at each point, head thrust forward, hands chop-ping the air vertically for emphasis. As he is sourrying out through the service entrance towards his car, the verdict in the room behind is "He's a good man: he gets things done".

That, at least, is Mr Bush's central claim: he promises a few things and delivers. To

**6** The only thing between doing your job well and making a fool of yourself is whisky 9

him President Clinton, the man who deposed his father. is "the ultimate entitlement President". He adds: "When Clinton says. 'I feel your pain', he implies he will do some-thing about it, but he can't."

If judged simply by passage of new laws, Mr Bush has fulfilled his promise. He has pushed through measures on juvenile crime, welfare reform and the promotion of literacy.

Critics say that these are the easiest issues on which to find consensus. It is also too early to know whether they will have effect; asked for figures on crime and welfare, his staff say: "His view is even if murders have fallen, there are still too many."

The property tax proposal may prove a tougher test of his

political powers. He wants the state to resume paying for local schools, lifting the burden of local property taxes but spreading the tax burden more widely across the population. This is a proposal that Mr Clinton might well sup-port to Mr Bush, however, in ncouraging home ownership. it symbolises his core theme of personal responsibility. Mr Bush now calls for America to embrace the idea

of personal responsibility, a cultural change that would mirror the change in his own life. loking that "I was lost and now I'm found", he says that in his twenties "I was a person that enjoyed myself: I enjoyed a good libation, a good laugh" Self-discipline came only with his marriage 19 years ago to Laura, a state school librarian, the arrival of twin girls, the decision to join the Methodist Church and success in the oil and gas business. On his de-



A message of abstinence, responsibility and social conservatism has shot Governor Bush to sudden popularity

years ago, he will say only: "I filled up." Now he says: "I work hard and run hard"; before a knee injury, he ran Austin's ten-kilometre race around the Capitol in 44 minutes, just under seven minutes a mile.

Despite this well-cultivated competitive streak, Mr Bush will not comment on presidential aspirations or whether he will run again for the governorship in two years' time (although he says "If you were a gambling person, you'd bet that I would seek re-election"). But speculation is bound to

grow: he regularly comes high in polls about the next Republican presidential candidate. If he moves on to the national stage, he will face

more direct comparison with his father. Asked about the differences between them, he will say only: "He was brought up in Connecticut, I was raised in Texas." But the differences are clear: he lacks his father's patrician gravitas. but is warmer, more fluent and energetic. Like Mr Clinton, he is able to touch idealistic themes without sounding silly. Those qualities

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could prove a powerful political asset he appears more able than his father to span the country club set and the re-ligious Right within the Republicans. However, his antiabortion stance and support for a balanced budget are potentially divisive within his party. The present disarray of Republican ideology makes Mr Bush's appeal to his party hard to judge, let alone his potential success on the tortuous road to the Republican nomination. But it is entirely

plausible that he could emerge

the Republican front-run-

ner. However, for him to have national appeal there would have to be a sharp change of national mood, with voters rejecting the qualities that they endorsed just three months ago in Mr Clinton.

If voters continue to share Mr Clinton's optimism that government can make a difference to their lives. Mr Bush would do well to stay in Texas. But if the electorate grows as cynical of government as Mr may have found its day.

Leading article, page 25

## Murderer highlights racism in **US Army**

IN WASHINGTON

FURORS were deciding yesterday whether to impose the death penalty or life in prison on a white paratrooper whose random murders of a black couple put a spotlight on neo-Nazis and racism in the US

James Burmeister, 21, had been found guilty by the jury of hunting down and killing the couple to earn a spider's web tattoo, a symbol among racists at Fort Bragg. North Carolina, that the wearer had killed a black or a homosex-ual. "The animal who took the lives of these two people executed them in as coldblooded a manner as is possible," said Ed Grannis, for

The murders provoked a national outery and forced the army to conduct a global groups in its ranks. Less than 100 white supremacists were found among 7,600 soldiers interviewed, but the discovery was nonetheless worrying.

The army said extremist groups tried to recruit soldiers outside military camps. Commanders at Fort Bragg found 21 soldiers with the 82nd Airborne Division who were active skinheads. All were either discharged or otherwise punished. The army now screens recruits more closely to keep out extremists and conducts courses to try to

stamp out racism.

Burmeister had received a reprimand and counselling for his views, but still spoke openly about blowing up a synagogue, and kept pam-phlets on Hitler in his room. Prosecutors produced photographs of him and others making the Nazi salute in front of a swastika flag.

## Teenage spies will police US cigarette clampdown

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA will set up a nationwide network of teenage spies to enforce a sweepunder-age smoking.

Under laws that came into force yesterday, anyone looking twenty-something or younger must show a photo identification, such as a driving licence, to prove they are 18 and so old enough to buy cigarenes. To ensure lawbreakers are caught, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Washington is contracting with states to form undercover teams of an adult and a minor to run teenage sting operations.

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The minor will go into shops and try to buy eigarettes within earshot of the adult. If demand for identification the shopowner will receive a warning letter saying that every subsequent breach will mean a line of up to \$250 (2154). II demanded, the shopowner

will be congratulated. Anti-smoking spies will be launched in ten states this summer with a grant of \$4 million and will eventually spread to all 50 states, said an FDA spokeswoman. It is not yet known how much they will be paid.

Their recruitment and the regulations are part of President Clinton's biggest govern-American history and his determination to deter youngsters from starting to smoke Everyone under 27 will now be obliged to give proof of age before buying digarettes, just a they have to show they are 21 or older to buy alcohol. The measures have been

greeted sourly in those states where tobacco is still the largest cash crop. Virginia and North Carolina have joined the tobacco industry in a lawsuit challenging all FDA tobacco regulations. Both states have agreed to enforce - after initial HARDWOOD FLOORS

James Gilmore, Virginia's Attorney-General, said the measure would be ignored. He was promptly put in his place by George Allen, the Governor, who called the regulations valid federal laws". A chastised Mr Gilmore told retailers to demand identification "until the courts have ruled" on the

requirement's legality.
State laws already forbid the selling of tobacco to those under 18, but figures show they are widely flouted. Minors buy \$1.6 billion in tubacco annually and 75 per cent of teenage smokers say they have never been asked to show identification.

Shopowners predicted long queues as they check the credentials of people who together buy cigarettes 26 million times a day. The National Association of Convenience Stores advised a million shop assistants to tell irate custoners they are just doing a job loisted on them by the Covernment

But shopkeepers are getting author, David Kessler, who stepped down yesterday as FDA commissioner, was handed a notice at his corner shop reminding him to bring identification next time. He is 46 and balding.

Oakland: A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by the City and County of San Francisco and ten other California counties against the tobacco industry, according to court papers made public on Thursday. But US District Judge D. Lowell Jensen ruled that plaintills' lawyers could file an amended complaint by

The tobacco industry hailed the ruling as a victory in its light against lawsuits seeking to force eigarette companies to repay states and municipalities for smokers' health custs. It is believed to be the first ruling to dismiss totally a lawsuit of this type. (Reuter)

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## Delhi budget seeks to build on reform and protect poor

dian budget was introduced in parliament yesterday to push forward the economic reform programme started six years

It proposed substantial cuts in customs and excise duties and income tax. The budget represents a further shift away from the high-tax socialist principles that have dominated India's financial policies for

the past half century. But protection for the poor has been given priority. Subsi-dies on food and fertilisers are to be increased, with the overall public outlay on agriculture rising by 13 per cent. There will also be more spending on rural development

New policies to encourage exploration for oil and natural gas were announced, along with incentives to attract greater foreign investment still a fraction of that in China, one of India's principal

It was the first budget by Palaniappan Chidambaram, the Finance Minister, after last year's inconclusive general election, which produced a fragile coalition administration. A 15-party steering committee representing all groups in the Government gave Mr Chidambaram a clear prebudget brief to push forward the economic reforms without making the poor suffer.

The Congress Party was defeated last year largely

AT LEAST 180 people were

killed in a series of earth-

quakes which hit Pakistan and

Iran yesterday. Many hun-

dreds more were injured and

rescuers said the toll in both

countries was virtually certain

Pakistan's western province

of Baluchistan was the first to

be hit. An earthquake measur-

ing 7.3 on the Richter scale killed more than 80 people,

about 65 of them residents of a

because of the perception that its reform programme was "anti-poor". The committee said that the budget must not lead to higher fuel prices for transport and cooking.

Mr Chidambaram was left little scope to increase public investment in infrastructure, one of the primary brakes on economic expansion. Roads, electricity generation, telephones and water supplies are in a chronic condition in most areas. The minister an-

## Power failure hits Bombay

Bombay: A widespread pow-er failure plunged many ar-eas of Bombay, India's commercial capital, into darkness late yesterday. "Bombay, Thane and two other adjoining districts of Maharashtra are totally in the dark," the state police headquarters said.

Trains ground to a halt all over the state. BSES, the company which supplies most of Bombay's power, said the failure came when two key power stations near

Power failures are common in India because of the country's crumbling infrastructure. Investment needed to put matters right is estimated at almost £70 billion over ten years. (Reuter)

Asian earthquakes kill 180

By Zahid Hussain in Karachi and Our Foreign Staff

village buried in the moun-

tainous district of Harnai, 125

miles southeast of Quetta, the

provincial capital. Hundreds

of houses were destroyed and

all communications cut. Army

troops were deployed to carry

difficult terrain hampered re-

lief work and railway tracks

and roads to Harnai were

have any idea how many

Severe cold weather and

nounced a modest opening of the health and insurance sectold the Lok Sabha (lower house) that economic growth remained high - an average of 7 per cent a year over the past three years.

Bureaucratic obstacles to investing in India remain daunting, one of the reasons why foreign investment fell short of expectations. Mr Chidambaram said that

overseas investors could own 30 per cent of the shares of Indian companies, up from 24 per cent, in an attempt to attract more foreign money. The minister promised to modernise foreign exchange regulations — yet another brake on investment.

He announced a widening of the income tax net. The test for liability will be ownership of a telephone and a car, which are both relatively rare possessions in India.

Defence boost India raised military spending by 21 per cent to \$10.2 billion (£6.3 billion) in the budget. The increase was \$1.8 billion more than the previous year's allocation, but experts said that, in real terms, the increase would be eaten up by inflation and

Mr Chidambaram promised to grant more funds for defence if necessary, but said he was holding back \$1 billion to pay for higher military salaries recommended by a government panel. (AFP)

people are still missing," a

Hours later an earthquake

rocked the Ardabil region of

northwest Iran, killing at least

100 people and injuring 200.

Tehran radio said that the

quake measured 5.5 on the

Richter scale. It caused devas-

tation in 40 villages around

Ardabil and in the regions of

Nir and Sarein, all in Iranian

Azerbaijan near the Caspian

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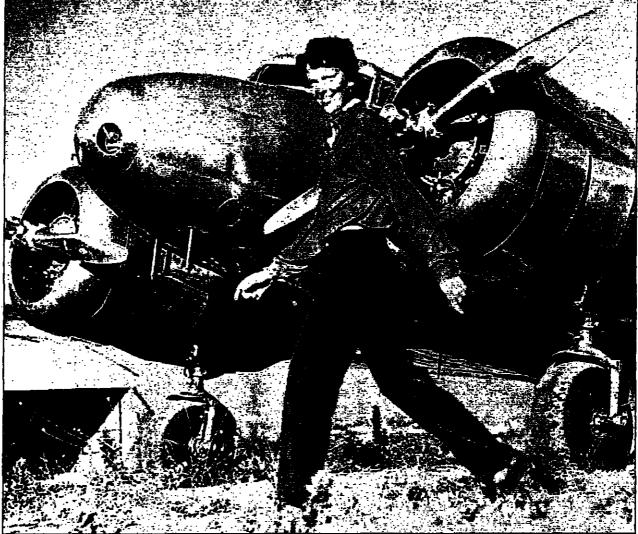
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Sea, the radio added.

district official said.



## US woman to retrace Earhart flight

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AN AMERICAN pilot hopes to retrace the global circum-navigation flight of Amelia Earhart, following the prewar flyer's route and using the same type of aircraft in which she disappeared in 1937.

Linda Finch, 46, a nursing homes proprietor from San Antonio, Texas, hopes to take off in a restored Lockheed Electra on March 17 - the 60th anniversary of Earhart's departure from Oakland on her last adventure. Ms Finch found the rare aircraft two years ago in a Wisconsin hangar where it had been left

"It had wings off, no engines, no propellers," she said. "Everything had to be taken apart. Every nut, bolt and rivet has been replaced."

By using the same type of aircraft as Earhart, Ms Finch hopes to experience the same physical demands which faced the great pilot and which may have contributed to her demise. Ms Finch said



Linda Finch and an Earhart plane at the Smithsonian

that she regards her Electra as "a laboratory of the human

Unlike Earhart, she will be followed by a support plane and will have superior navi-

Amelia Earhart had to make do with the flawed Fred Noonan. She plans 37 stops in 25 countries, including Pakistan, Thailand and Australia. After the trouble experienced

American balloonist, Ms Finch will avoid Libya.

The creaking Electra, powered by two Pratt and Whitney propeller engines. cannot fly above 14,000ft and can manage little more than 150 mph and the trip is expected to take ten weeks. There is concern over the strength of the landing gear — which was innovative for its day — and the weight of the aircraft when fully laden with fuel (it will have more tanks than Earhart's plane).

Ms Finch has praised Earhart as "very feminine and very lovely", but added that she strongly believed women should not be so looked after that they learnt to limit

If she makes it as far as Howard Island — the sliver of land in the middle of the Pacific which Earhart, short of fuel, dogged by a bad radio and exhausted, failed to reach in 1937 - Ms Finch intends to drop a wreath before continuing towards the United

Power gap widens in North Korea

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT

NORTH KOREA'S official media yesterday reported the death of the country's Deputy Defence Minister six days after the demise of the Defence 🛴 Minister, injecting new uncertainties into the impoverished Stalinist nation.

Kim Kwang Jin, 69, who reportedly died of an "incurable illness" on Thursday, was the leading candidate to succeed Choe Kwang, his superi-or, who died of a heart attack last Friday.

Mr Kim's death opens a new gap in a power structure that analysts think is in the throes of a major upheaval.

In little more than a fortnight, North Korea's de facto eader, Kim Jong II, has lost four of his 25 most senior officials. Last Friday Kang Song San was replaced as Prime Minister, apparently for health reasons. His departure came after the defection on February 12 of Hwang Jang Yop, the country's chief ideologue, which exposed wavering loyalties in Kim Jong Il's

inner circle.

At first sight the deaths in quick succession of the two most powerful military figures might appear suspicious. But analysts in Seoul and Tokyo say Kim Kwang Jin, not seen in public since January 3, had been ill for some time. However, questions linger about the earlier death of his superior. Seoul: South Korea's President, Kim Young Sam, began a sweeping administration reshuffle yesterday aimed at restoring political credibility badly damaged by a loans scandal. He replaced his chief secretary and three other top advisers responsible for political, economic and general affairs, a presidential spokesman said. A Cabinet reshuffle is expected early next week. Separately, President Kim

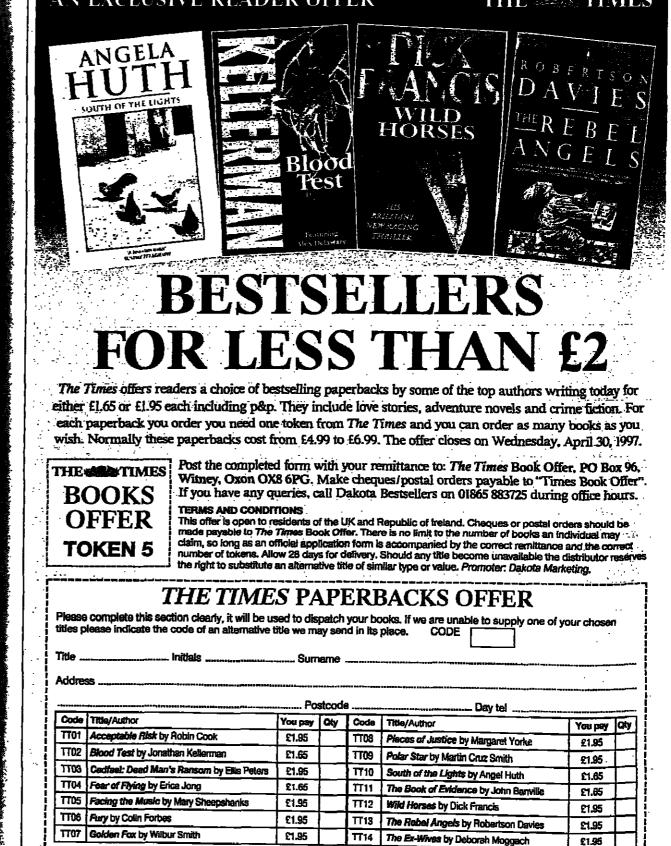
sacked the country's secondranking intelligence officer. No reason was given, but opposition politicians have alleged that Kim Ki Sup, deputy chief of the Agency for National Security Planning, was close to the President's second son, Hyun Chul, who was banished from public life after being questioned, and cleared. scandal. (Reuter)

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## Grandmother defies terrorism's young supporters despite raids on her literary treasure house

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## Basque book-burners' victim

SAN SEBASTIAN FILE

by TUNKU

VARADARAJAN

pride to say this, but mine must be the most attacked bookshop in the Western world. By attacked, ! mean precisely that ... stones. iron bars, paint, petrol bombs, the lot. They have even made a bonfire of my books. It's all so ugly,"

"outh

Maria Teresa Castells is a grandmother with a rather large problem. Her bookshop, Lagun, in the heart of old San Sebastián... has been anacked precisely 22 times since early last year by young, hooded Basque radicals. who detest her for her outspoken opposition to terrorism in this

troubled Spanish region. At 61 and scarely over 5ft, she has an eclectic array on her shelves. Evidently a personal selection, she stocks everything from Spanish translations of Martin Amis to the Communist Manifesto, children's books and abstruse works on Basque orthography.

Earlier this year, youths smashed the shopfront, grabbed a

THE new Guggenheim Museum

in Bilbao, due to open its doors on

October 3, has made its first,

ship" of the Basque country, and

designed by the American archi-

Touted as the "cultural flag-

controversial purchases.

pile of books and set fire to them on the pavement. Fearful onlook-

ers did nothing to stop them.
It is ironic. Señora Castells says, "but the books they burnt were on philosophy and textbooks on the Basque language." Her assistant. Rosa Mari Cuezva, shakes her head and makes the bitter point: "The last time they burnt books in Europe was The Satanic Verses. Before that were the Nazis."

The attackers also threw paint over the books inside. "But the ordinary people of San Sebastián. who have no truck with terrorism either, came to my aid." Señora

Art museum shopping draws critics

tect Frank Gehry, the museum has

just bought the entire works of the

German neo-expressionist Anselm

Kiefer, whose paintines are considered unintelligible by many.
Writing recently in El Correo

Español, the Bilbao daily, the

Castells said. "They bought all the damaged books off me ... singed. burnt, covered in green paint. It was an act of simple solidarity with a bookshop and the written

Lagun, which means "friend" in Basque, is a liberal bookshop with a history of political conflict. Founded in 1968, it was frequently targeted by the murky right-wing paramilitary organisations which flourished under Franco. One of these, Cristo Rey - Christ, the King - made a habit of throwing petrol bombs at it. Señora Castells explains: "We used to stock a variety of banned books at the

critic Enrique Portocarrero had

this to say: The purchase of

Kiefer's entire works was hasty. We

don't yet know whether the painter

will one day enjoy a place in Parnassus, or be exposed as no

more than a commercial bluffer."

Pablo Neruda and the poet Cesar Vallejo.
"We were also harassed by the

Civil Guard because of our support for Basque autonomy. I even spent a month in prison for organising a signature campaign in protest against the execution by the Government of Eta prisoners. Now the dictatorship has gone and Spain has a democracy ... and I am attacked by Basque radicals for speaking out against Eta and the unbearable violence of the Basque country. It's an odd

Señora Castells says: "I am afraid, to tell you the truth. Very afraid. But I'm not going to give in to these threats." She wishes, however, that the police would do more to help her. "I have been attacked 22 times and there has not been a single arrest."

The Plaza de la Constitución, where the bookshop is located, is in the centre of a vast "no-go" area for the Ertzaintza, or autonomous Basque police force. At night young Basque radicals roam the streets and the police simply cede ground. "Many describe this part town as Apache country, Señora Castells says. "But my bookshop is here, too. And I am not going anywhere."



Maria Teresa Castells at her bookshop in old San Sebastián

## **Berets** head for oblivion

THE humble beret is on the verge of extinction in the Spanish Basque country, the land in which it was invented several centuries ago.

Unable to join the march of fashion, the distinctive headgear is scarcely worn by anyone under 60, raising fears that it could vanish save for its use in folklore and fancy dress - within the next decade.

The txapela, or beret, was once the most powerful exter-nal symbol of Basque identi-Amaya Rodriguez Hernandorena, an Oxfordtrained anthropologist in the regional Basque Government, remarks wistfully: "My grandfather would have felt quite naked without his beret on. For him, and for men like him, it was not just an article of clothing but also an article of faith.

But young Basques now regard the beret as deeply demode. Dr Rodriguez explains: "They are like young people anywhere else. They prefer a baseball cap worn the wrong way round to a good Basque beret."



Che: "aroused jealousy of the Cuban leader"

## Castro 'sent Che to his death'

By TUNKE VARADARAJAN

ERNESTO "Che" Guevara. the middle-class idealist from Argentina who played a star-ring rule in the Cuban Revohation was sent deliberately to his death 30 years ago by a sealous Fidel Castro, according to a new book published in Madrid by a senior Cuban.

The controversial book, Memorias de Un Soldado Cubaso (Memories of a Cuban Soldier), is by Dariel Alarcon, who was once Guevara's right-hand man. Better known as "Colonel Benigno". his nom de guerre. Señor Alarcon was at Guevara's side on October 8, 1967, when the latter was captured and killed by government troops in the

Bolivian jungle.
The charismatic Guevara was the Rupert Brooke of the Left and given the romantic interest that his story has always aroused - his poster portrait was once a fixture in-student bedsits worldwide rumours have always flourished about the circumstances

of his killing. Although Señor Alarcón's thesis is not entirely new, this is the first time that a figure so close to the heart of Cuba's Revolution has directly held President Castro responsible for Che's death. Others have only accused the Cuban leader of negligence or callousness towards his partner-inrevolution.

Once a privileged member of Cuba's ruling elite. Senor Alarcon fled the country last year and now lives outside Paris. In his book he claims that Senor Castro was intensely jealous of Guevara from pre-revolutionary days, when both men roamed the Cuban mountains together.

In 1967, the year of his death. Guevara went to Bolivis with a small band of men. the aim being to link up with local guerrillas there and lead a revolt in the region of Santa Cruz. According to Señor Alarcon, however, Señor Castro never really meant the plan to succeed and he ensured that the Bolivian guerrilla leaders were summoned to Havana at precisely the same time, leaving Guevara and his men friendless in

alien terrain. "Che was sent to his death deliberately." Senor Alarcin says. Castro coldly exposed him, and the rest of us, to annihilation. Yet so committed was [Che] to the cause that he did not tell any of us what Castro had done, lest our morale be affected."

## Record French iobless

Paris: French unemployment rose by 18,100 in January. boosting the rate to a record 12.7 per cent, the Labour Ministry said yesterday.

The number of people registered as out of work rose 0.6 per cent to 3,099,800 after dipping slightly the month before. But there was some relief for the under 25s: the number of men seeking jobs fell 1.5 per cent, and the number of women by 0.7 per cent. (Reuter)

## Campuses hit by unrest

Johannesburg: Fresh student unrest over planned subsidy cuts has forced the closure of several South African carnpuses amid accusations that the African National Congress has reneged on election pledges. Student militants are behind the demonstrations. The worst violence was at the University of the North, where three policemen were injured.

## Bougainville peace plan

Sydney: Papua New Guinea has a new peace plan for Bougainville island, scene of a nine-year conflict, as diplomatic pressure grows against its use of mercenaries to train troops to fight secessionist rebels. A Minister said the Government recognised "peace cannot be imposed" (Reuter)

## Thais deport Karen exiles

Geneva: Thailand is transporting thousands of Karen refugees who fied fighting in neighbouring Burma back across the border, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said. Nearly 15,000 refu-gees fled to Thailand after a recent Burmese army offensive aimed at wiping out the Karen guerrilla army. (AP)

## Sydney store bomb alert

Sydney: Twelve people were taken to hospital and 500 moved out of a supermarket at Bondi Junction after an unex-ploded liquid chlorine bomb - the second to be found at a Sydney supermarket this week - gave off toxic furnes. Fire officers said the device would eventually have blown up if left alone. (Reuter)

## Law stamps on ex-Premier

Perth: Brian Burke, 50, Western Australia's state Premier from 1983 to 1988 and his country's former Ambassador to Ireland and the Vatican. was jailed for three years for stealing more than A\$120,000 (£56,000) in political donations in 1984-85 to amass a personal stamp collection. (Reuter)

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MUSIC Judith Weir is among the British composers showcased by the adventurous Nash Ensemble



**■ DANCE** 

La Sylphide goes tartan: Adventures in Motion Pictures revives Matthew Bourne's Highland Fling

THE



■ WHAT'S ON

All the top shows of the week — from a British tour by the Lemonheads ...



■ WHAT'S ON

.. to Richard Deacon's latest installations are listed today in The Times Directory

TODAY'S audiences know much less modern music than their counterparts did a hundred years ago, when the repertory was a largely 19th-century one enriched by a few old masters like Bach. Mozart and Handel. We are now better versed in early music, but at the expense of the brilliantly diverse - and sometimes baffling - music of our time. With fin de siècle urgency, things are being done to alter the balance: two London concerts on consecutive nights this week celebrated

only 20th-century works. The big pre-millennium party is BBC Radio 3's Sounding the Century project, and under its auspices Richard Bernas and his Music Projects/ London brought a fascinating programme to St John's, Smith Square, crafted round a number of themes including Italian music. Dallapiccola's early (1943) Six Songs of Alcaeus proved a highlight: fittingly for a tribute to Webern, everything in this music grows out of a kernel, but beautiful threads of melody also run through the six serene settings of ancient Greek poetry. The soprano Lucy Shelton sang them lovingly.

Also rewarding were Bruno Maderna's short Dialodia for intertwining flute and violin, and Franco Donatoni's sophisticat**Moderns** get a hearing

CONCERTS

ed Tema, variations which require virtuosity and received it from Bernas and his players. Much less rarefied was the maverick Giacinto Scelsi's Yamaon, interesting for the first minute or two, but then wearisome as the bass (Nicholas Isherwood) sang in an invented language.

Schoenberg was represented by his seldom-played Herzgewächse, a mysterious Maeterlinck setting for soprano and three normally decorative instruments, the harmonium, celesta and harp. Shelton again sang long lines. Simon Holt's Lilith is an effective chamber tone poem evoking the serpent said to have been Adam's first wife.

The following evening's Nash Ensem-

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IBLE YEAR

3RD IRR

ble concert was an all-British affair. Its only disappointment was the concert suite drawn from Britten's 1939 radio music for The Sword in the Stone - Arthurian tales which somehow inspired the composer to parody a number of sources, including Wagner. Players and conductor Thomas Ades made light of it, but the score is best forgotten. The "Myths, Magic and Enchantment" theme that ran through the programme was better represented by John Casken's Infanta Marina and Judith Weir's Distance and Enchantment. Casken's piece, full of dusky timbres, sets a lonely cor anglais against two groups of instruments to dwell on the daughter of Pericles. The Weir, for piano and string trio, is a haunting meditation

on two songs from Ireland and Scotland. A new talent was confirmed in the premiere of *Undertow* by John Cooney (born 1967). This nine-minute score is a flickering, kaleidoscopic flux of tightly organised material. Meirion Bowen's arrangement of Tippett in The Tempest Suite condenses into 30 minutes much of the genius of Britain's composer emeritus. and drew together effectively all the threads of this Purcell Room evening.

JOHN ALLISON

## Kilt heroes are go

dventures in Motion Pictures has moved up a notch or two since we first saw Highland Fling. Three years ago Matthew Bourne's lively troupe was one of the bright hopes of the contemporary dance scene, a small but important player on stages throughout Britain. Today. thanks to the wild success of

DANCE

Highland Fling Place Theatre

Bourne's Swan Lake, the

world beckons. After a 21-week run in the West End, Swan Lake is headed for Los Angeles in April; plans for 1998 include seasons in New York, Sydney and Tokyo. And such is the lure of Bourne and his company that they have even enticed Adam Cooper, their gender-bending swan, to pack in his Covent Garden job to

join them on their travels. But before heading off, they paused this week to remember more modest days at London's Place Theatre. As part of its annual Spring Loaded festi-val, the venue is welcoming AMP back just as the company celebrates its tenth

anniversary.
So here again is Highland Fling, Bourne's comic revisionist take on the great 19thcentury Romantic ballet La Sylphide. delightfully performed by a terrific AMP cast. The twee sensibilities of Bournonville's 1836 production cry out for parody, and Bourne duly obliges - the opening scene is set in the graffiti-daubed toilet at the Highland Horse Social Club

James is still Scottish, but he is now an unemployed welder in 1990s Britain, living a miserable, drug-dependent existence in a Glasgow council flat. Like his more noble

The witty designs are equalup to the minute. Lez Brotherston's extravagant tartan theme is picked out in

Adventures in Motion Pictures warm up for America with a new look at Highland Fling

fine performance by Neil Penlington) is lured to his doom by a supernatural creature. But Bourne's Sylph is no ethereal vision of beauty; instead (played by a derangedlooking Jacqueline Anderson) she is a macabre, Hammer Horror vampire with wings who comes to James in a chemically inspired hallucination. And when he races off on his wedding day to pursue her, he finds himself not in some enchanted forest, but on an urban wasteground, with tow-

everything from wallpaper to women's leggings, and he captures the scruffy, desolate landscape of so many contemporary lives without compromising the production's cheeky charms.

The choreography, particularly in Act I. comes down too heavily in favour of mime at the expense of movement, and one could ask for a greater emotional articulation in the

Sylph. But Bourne does turn a wonderful satiric phrase, and his theatrical instincts are unerringly astute, knowing just the right moment to draw

Best of all, though, is the sheer idea of the thing. For behind Bourne's wicked giggles, his choreographic smirks and his two fingers in the face of a much-loved ballet, there lies a darkly romantic heart. The journey from Bournonville to Bourne is not so very

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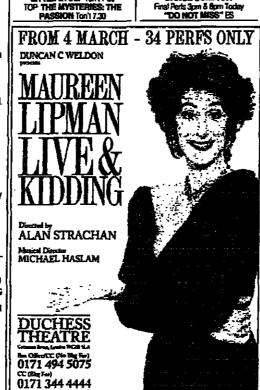
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OPINION

At last the sublimity of the suburban semi receives its official recognition



**THEATRE** 

In Stratford the RSC boldly resuscitates Tennessee Williams's rarely seen Camino Real





■ POP

The Fall head the bill as guitar bands with attitude pay tribute to a rock critic

last year for putting the "wrong"

front door on her own cottage. The

fascists lost that case, thank good-

ness. But the zeal of those who

think they know best about some-

conformity. Four million homes were flung up in Britain between

the wars, most of them near-

round the avenues and crescents

today the impression is certainly

not one of dull uniformity. People

identical semis. Yet when you walk

The fact is that suburban

Britain is a triumph of self-

expression over imposed

body else's home is alarming.



ON MONDAY

Making The English Patient: the story behind the film that seems set to sweep the Oscars

s there anything in this world - animal, vegetable or mineral - that Britain hasn't set up a museum to preserve? A few years ago I wrote, admittedly in a light vein, about the Fakenham Museum of Gas and Local History, and promptly received several letters of eloquent rage from distressed burghers of that fair Norfolk town. where they do tend to take their gas and local history seriously.

Fair enough. Gas is a big subject. But Britain also has museums of barrel-organs, cheese, witches, gloves, dentistry, defunct regiments, trams, beer, slate, xxy and the Venerable Bede. We have shipwreck centres, farmyard heritage sites, lovingly restored mines and authentic torture chambers. We employ serious people to display Regency spoons. Even rock music has its curators now.

if they ever start a Museum of Silly Statistics (and they will) it must include the fact that if you saw two museums a day you would take nearly four years to visit every British museum. Once

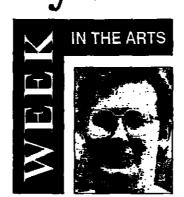
Don't throw away that garden gnome we were a nation of shopkeepers. Now we are just keepers. We can't let anything go. No aspect of our past is so trivial, grisly or plain

boring that some nostalgic anorak

won't slap a preservation order on it. How apt that it is British boffins who have invented cloning. Now we can replicate even ourselves as we were in our own heyday. The ideal gift for heritage freaks! Incidentally, is there a Museum of Mad Scientists - or are they all still out there? Mummified Britain may seem a

bit creepy. If we are obsessed with the past, the argument goes, we might become fatally disengaged from the present. But in a way I find it rather reassuring. A nation that supports 2,500 museums and sends 74 million visitors through them each year - is not a nation sliding into gormlessness. In any case, museums today are far from the dusty storerooms of dread childhood memory. Quite the opposite. The buzzwords now are "interactive" and "hands on". You barely get inside before some bubbly guide bounds up and invites you to try your hand at Viking dominoes or Saxon juteweaving. It's all a bit exhausting, actually. Even the world's greatest bagpipe museum, in Morpeth, now proudly boasts "an infra-red sound system that allows each visitor, including the deaf, a unique musical experience". You bet it does. I would only query the

word "musical". These days, the ethos of museums has swung round to what might grandly be called the Tol-stoy theory of history: the belief that the tide of affairs is turned as much by the lives of ordinary people as by rulers. And nothing better symbolises the current



RICHARD MORRISON

ogue for "people's history" than an announcement last week — tucked away among the £137 million that Lord Rothschild handed out to museums from the Heritage Lottery Fund — that museum of suburbia. Well, it's not actually called that. Opening in 1999 on Middlesex

University's campus, and funded with £1.6 million of lottery money, it will be titled the Museum of Domestic Architecture and Design. But a riotous celebration of suburban life - red in tooth and garden gnome — it will surely be. With 40,000 wallpaper designs

already in storage, plus many other artefacts of semi-detached life, it will have what the Heritage Lottery Fund describes as "a unique relevance to North London middle class domestic taste of the period 1880-1963". Hey, not so much of the "1880-1963" bit, if you don't mind. Some of us still live with that wallpaper.

Doubtless the sophisticates will deride a museum glorifying the decor lurking behind the mock-

ferent, and often done it with flair. Their taste may not be your taste. but you have to cheer this vigorous assertion of individuality. Flying ducks, double-glazing,

Of course, suburb-love can be overdone. To anyone who has hanging baskets, crazy paving, plastic log fires, porting sheds, doorbells that play tunes: all this is lived near that filthy stream by the North Circular Road, John Betjeman's lines — "Gentle Brent. grist to the mill of metropolitan I used to know you, Wandering mockery. English Heritage even Wembley-wards at will" — will seem like poetic whimsy of the took a woman to the High Court most irritating kind.

have flaunted their right to be dif-

But if we must start up Britain's 2,501st museum, there are worse things to study than Suburban Man, Woman and Patio. Incidentally, if the new museum's curators want to bid for a Bakelite wall clock (batteries not included), an MFI wardrobe (door fell off last year), a genuine Persian rug (made in Taiwan) and several priceless Impressionist paintings (in the much-admired Athena Posters edition of 1983). I suggest that they get Lord Rothschild to pop a cheque in the post to me quickly. I've had offers from America, you know.

THE TIMES

soundtrack.

CHANGING TIMES

## Looking-glass menagerie

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale in Stratford for Tennessee Williams's revived Camino Real

Williams's first failure. He watched outof-town audiences, in his words. "stamping out with little regard for those they had to crawl over, almost as if the building had caught fire. When the play reached Broadway in 1953 most reviews were poor, and when it moved to London they were no better. What makes the Royal Shakespeare Company think that the audiences of 1997 will be more enthusiastic?

Well, we are friendlier to surreal, symbolic work, and at this late date can scarcely bridle at Williams's rejection of the realism of The Glass Menagerie and A Streetcar Named Desire. Perhaps we should welcome a piece which he said came largely from his subconscious, If Shakespeare had penned a dream play in which Hamlets, witches and Lears wandered about a celestial Stratford opining about life and death, I don't think we would wish it shredded; and the Quixote, Casanova, Byron and Marguerite Gautier who venture into the ontological dump Williams calls Camino Real all represent aspects of

hunself. That said, I must confess that respect for Williams, a good east and Steven Pimlott's energetic direction were not enough to reconcile me to a genre I find uncongenial at the best of times. The trouble with dream plays is that they tend to laci, mementum, tension, strong characterisation, dramatic conflict, and other things appealing to my unreconstructed self People are careers of hundreds of bands,

forever spouting sagacities that would mean much more if they emerged from event and experience: "Humanity is just a work in progress": "Humankind cannot bear very much reality" - that sort of stuff.

Indeed, it hardly matters which character is talking about guinea pigs or plagiarising T.S. Eliot. It might be Peter Egan's woebegone Casanova, who yearns to discover romance. It might be Susannah York's passionate Marguerite, who longs for escape from reality, or Jeffrey Wickham's Quixote, who preaches tolerance and endurance, or Colin Hurley's Byron, who feels his love of freedom has been compromised by louche living, or David Collings's Baron de Charlus. with his fatal weakness for rough trade, or even Darrell

up selling his heart to a pawnbroker. They all embody the hopes and fears Williams expressed through character and plot in more vital plays.

Still, one aspect of the play muddle of rotten concrete, artdeco elegance, sleazy dives and dirty galleries that consti-tutes Yolanda Sonnabend's vivid set is the world, the Americas, but also the USA. Goons suppress those who dare breathe such subversive words as "brother". Sinister street-cleaners arrive in gasmasks and green gowns to clear the corpses of the havenots. The haves, mainly repre sented here by Leslie Phillips's smug hotelier, are accused of destroying "America's son".

When the play originally appeared, the McCarthyites



"Williams's protest against the prejudice and brutality he spent his life eluding": Peter Egan, Leslie Phillips and Susannah York in Camino Real .

and maybe it was. It was Williams's protest against the prejudice and brutality he spent his life eluding and his art confronting. That struggle

## Hearing it for a good guy

THERE are probably not many people, and even fewer music journalists, for whom Mark E. Smith would willingly play a benefit gig, Ann Scanlon writes. But Leo Finlay, who died at the age of 32 last December, was a cut above the average rock journalist - he was a one-off, a sharp-witted, warm-hearted lover of life and music.

As a writer for Sounds, Select, Rocks and Volume. and in his long-standing A&R capacity at Music Week. Finlay helped to kickstart the

## **CONCERTS**

including Blur, Therapy? and

the Divine Comedy. The four bands on the bill at the Astoria 2 reflected Finlay's lifelong enthusiasm for guitar bands with attitude. Travis were his latest favourites and they lived up to this honour by playing a passionate, varied set. In a faster, more metallic vein came Ash, about whom Finlay had written early on in their career.

As an eternal champion of

the underdog, Finlay would have been pleased by the high billing given to Formula One. an unsigned five-piece, who played quirky, synth-laden pop. And then finally came The Fall, Finlay's favourite band, fronted by Mark E. Smith, the man he regarded as the only true pop star. As caustic as ever. Smith man-aged to provoke the most serious outbreak of dancing in the evening, particularly during Hip Priests.

GEORGE MICHAEL may beg to differ, but this was not a vintage year for the Best Male Solo Artist category he won at this week's Brit Awards. Paul Sexton writes. The nomination of Sting and Tricky for albums widely held to be ho-hum suggests a vacancy for an arresting new domestic solo talent to surface in time for

next year's gong show. Which may be where How ard New comes in, although the jury will not be sitting in his case for a while yet. The early evidence includes two plausible singles. Battlefield and Demolition Girl, and more than a few appreciative murmurs when he opened for Tina Turner in the arenas of Britain and Europe last

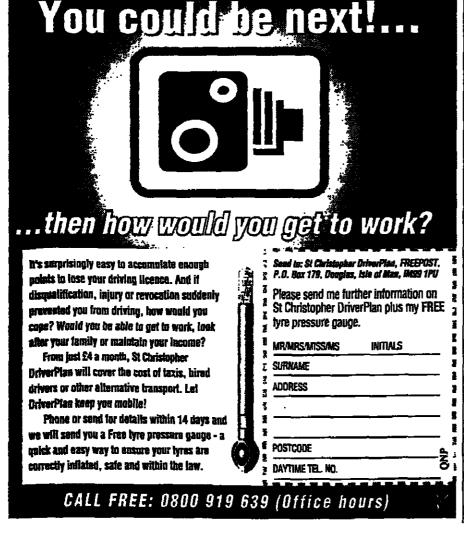
So this was a Borderline appearance in more ways than one. But the Warringtonborn singer nevertheless infused his performance with a big spoonful of northern soul and a pugnacious strut born of his teenage boxing years.

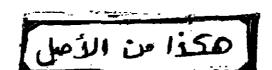
autumn.

He has a weakness for power ballads in the style we used to call adult-orientated rock, with some of the unfashionable echoes that implies. His own *Learning to Fly* is a portentous love song, the sort that seems to demand big hair and animated axe solos. Pearldiving was less ardent, with his guitarist lending vocal support to a more ingenuous and likeable piece.

His interpretative powers reached from Nick Cave's Straight to You, his next single, to his first, Nick Lowe and Paul Carrack's Battlefield - a song by two old boys given fresh legs by a New one.

Starting in Monday's 10p Tin o see 12 times Oscar nominated film.





## Europe's pensions time bomb

The cost of retirement could ruin the

Continent, says Tim Congdon

urope has a problem with its pensions. In most countries the burden of state pension expenditure has increased, is increasing and ought to be dimin-

The causes of the problem are easy to explain. People are living longer than ever before. The State, or at any rate a social security fund which is the agent of the State, is responsible for paying pensions to its citizens in old age. As the demographic balance changes in the next century, with a higher ratio of old people to the population of working age, the cost of this commitment will rise. Since state pensions are "unfunded" (not matched by a pool of assets), taxes and social security contributions will have to increase.

The interaction between the large implied increases in taxation and economies growth potential is vicious. As taxes rise to cover the higher cost of pensions, the incen-tives for people of working age to remain in full time employment weaken. But, if the number of people at work declines, the tax burden on those workers who stay in a job must necessarily rise again. The risk is of a dangerous spiral of rising taxes, which cut labour force participation, which raises the tax rate for the average worker and which again cuts labour force

participation. Even worse, demographic trends will lead to a drop in the number of people of working age in some European countries over the next 25 years. So, if the proportion of the working-age population in employment also goes

down, the number of

people at work must fall.

Unless output per head increases sharply, national output may stop growing or even decline. Once more, nations' ability to pay the taxes required to cover the pension burden is under-

While this diagnosis of the pension problem is familiar, there is still much debate about the right prescription. One option is to stimulate the development of funded pensions, where people have a pool of assets, which generates interest, profits and rents to pay their pensions. Britain is lucky in having Europe's largest pool of pension assets (68 per cent of GDP in 1994, compared to Germany's 6 per cent) to cover the liabilities of well-established and fully funded corporate pension schemes. Though many observers regard this as the ideal outcome, it would take many years before a sufficiently large asset pool could be created in most confinental European countries. Also relevant here are tax arrangements, which in most countries will need to be changed to make pension funding an option attractive to the private sector. There is a real danger that European monetary union will lead to fiscal harmonisation, and to British taxpayers subsidising our parmers' unfunded schemes.

Italy has one of the worst problems in Europe. In his pamphlet, Mounting Debts: the coming European pension crisis. Gabriel Stein suggests that pension costs will rise as a share of Italian output from slightly above 15 per cent today to over 25 per cent by 2030. But the Italian people have little incentive to develop funded pensions, because they at present have a tax exemption on interest on government debt. They prefer to accumulate holdings of government debt instead of diversified asset pools on the British pattern. It is difficult to see how these tax arrangements can be changed without a traumatic and possibly counter-productive shock to savers'

Could the pension crisis lead to an economic horror story? Could the adverse effect of rising taxes on incentives to work and save stop economic growth in Europe, and create societies where most people are dependent on the State, because they are being paid old age pen-sions or some other kind of social security benefit?

There are at least two reasons for thinking that the fiscal crisis of the modern European State is worse than Mr Stein has argued. First, he focuses exclusively on pensions, whereas in fact this crisis relates to public expenditure as a whole. In particular, medical costs for the elderly are much higher than for the young and middle-aged. As the proportion of old people to the total population rises, the ratio of medical expenditure to national output will increase. With the State re-sponsible for the bulk of medical expenditure, here is another influence certain to drive up tax rates, and so to discourage work, effort and

Secondly, the extra expenditure on pensions and health might be manageable if Europe's nations had an immaculate record in controlling budget deficits and public debts. In that event, they could borrow at low interest rates, and perhaps try to postpone tax increases and the consequent de-struction of incentives. Unhappily,

over the past 25 years, public debt has increased faster than national output across The rising Europe. The countries with the heaviest burden of unfunded pensions are sometimes - as in the Italian and Belgian cases - also the counlead to tries with the worst records of controlling higher taxes their deficits and debts.

leveIs

of debt

will

As a result, the level of real interest rates is higher than in the 1950s and 1960s. In most countries it is above the economic growth. A standard proposition in macroeconomics is that in these circumstances, public debt will rise indefinitely relative to national output unless governments run substantial surpluses of tax revenues

over their non-interest expenditure. Of course, the climb in pension and health expenditure makes it more painful to achieve such surpluses. But the longer Europe's governments postpone the action needed to halt the growth of debt. the worse their eventual dilemma. As the level of debt -- and so the size of debt interest charges - rises compared with national income. the higher taxes must go to stabilise the public finances. Short-term fiscal kindness may lead to longterm financial disintegration.

enjamin Franklin in the 18th Century said that nothing is more certain than death and taxes. In the 21st century nothing will be more certain than a gradual ageing of Europe's populations, as the elderly becomes a relatively larger group, and a substantial increase in pension costs. Given that the strain of additional pension payments will be superimposed on large increases in meical expenditure and interest charges on public debt, the long-term prospects for European economic growth are poor and worsening.

Indeed, a case can be argued that Europe's growth prospect is worse now than at any time since the start of the industrial revolution. If Europe's governments cannot solve the problem of unfunded pensions, they will not be able to control their larger fiscal difficulties or to prevent rises in taxation which will wreck their economies.

Professor Tim Congdon is one of the Chancellor's economic advisers. Mounting Debts: the coming European pension crisis, by Gabriel Stein, is published this week by Politeia.

noticed that there was no marking

for the battle, which he reckons to

be second only to the Battle of

Archaeologists and geographers were soon marshalled, and they set

Hastings in significance.

## Margot Norman on the impact of Labour's proposed abolition of the assisted places scheme

assisted places scheme, Tony Blair and David Blunkett have got it wrong. Thousands of lowincome parents did not know their children had the chance of a free private education until Labour promised to take that chance away.

Labour no longer claims that the money saved by phasing out the scheme would pay for a nationwide reduction in primary school class sizes to 30 or below: an independent assessment now says the shortfall would be at least £250 million. But until recently there were still some grounds for viewing the scheme as a cosy subsidy for those in the know. The Government was culpably negligent in failing to publicise the scheme. Last October, though, everyone claiming child benefit was given an explanatory leaflet. Combined with media controversy over Labour's abolition plans, this has led to a simultaneous awaken-

ing and dashing of expectations.

The State now pays for 38,000 young scholars, due to rise to 60,000 under present forecasts. How many schools are there like St Stephens, a kaleidoscopically multi-ethnic primary school opposite a big council estate in the borough of Westminster, produc-ing their first ever crop of assisted place hopefuls this year? The children are lucky with their head-

Give our children a chance, Mr Blair

says: "Parents have a right to this, it's one of the choices on offer, and it's my job to help them through the rather daunting process." But many other state school heads remain so ideologically opposed to the scheme that they refuse to send reports to the receiving schools.

Marion Gibbs, headmistress of James Allen's school for girls in Dulwich, is saddened by the air of last-chance desperation among this year's applicants, several of whom are under-age. Dulwich's catchment area includes south London's lowest-achieving but also most expensive-to-run comprehensives. (The average assisted place costs the taxpayer £3,700, compared with nearly £4,500 in a state school where, as one anxious Muslim parent put it, the likely outcome for her daughter was not university but "prison, pregnancy, hospital or the dole".) James Allen's has a very bright undergraduates from the ethnic minorities, their talents fostered by assisted places.

The scheme's likely demise under Labour would simply be "sad", according to Jean Scott, headmistress of South Hampstead High School, flagship of the Girls' Public Day School Trust. Some 3,500 children have assisted places at the Trust's 26 schools, nearly 10 per cent of the total. As a Scot, she is exasperated by the way the debate has been dominated by outdated English preoccupations with social class. What unites the Trust's assisted place holders, a third of whom have no father at home, is not class but ability, lack of cash and the scarcity of good state girls' schools. This is particularly so in London: South Hampstead's chief state competitor, Henrietta Barnett, has 850 applicants for 93 places: harder to get into than Cambridge.

For 125 years the non-profitmaking Trust has kept faith with its mission to offer bright city girls a good education regardless of their backgrounds, by means of low fees and state scholarship schemes for 20 to 25 per cent of its pupils. Former direct-grant schools like these, and the many grammar schools that reluctantly went independent 20 years ago rather than go comprehensive, will now be-

ocome the preserve of those with New Labour, supported by the Liberal Democrats, seems determined to destroy the only bridge that exists between the state and private sectors, though Mr Blunkett has talked of accepting private schools as partners. More-over, league tables, which Labour now accepts, have polarised state schools as never before, with the good ones oversubscribed and the bad ones shunned by the well-

sent their children there until the awful truth about their exam

results became plain. Money, class, and education in this country no longer mesh as they did when Labour was last in power. The majority of parents at private schools were themselves educated in state schools. It makes no sense to risk this national pool of brainpower, while fostering other talents with state scholarships for specialist schools of music and dance, and adding new ones for sport.

axpayers have been funding places in private schools for over 400 years. A Labour government invented the direct grant scheme, and another expanded it in 1946. The old urban grammar and direct grant schools are still the core of the scheme. Several continental countries and even egalitarian Australia have similar meritocratic initiatives.

By all means, reform the scheme, Mr Blair: tighten the rules, set the Inland Revenue on wealthy parents who cheat, and ditch grand schools like Charterhouse that charge three times the average for sixth-formers. Sit down with local authorities and heads to target assisted places on gaps in state provision. But many parents will not forgive you if you

## Dr Sacks's road to Salem

The Chief Rabbi's arguments

undermine mature democracy.

ou are all aware," says Salem's Reverend Parris, "of the rumours of the Spirit come amongst us out of Hell, of that hateful enemy of all Christian people, the Devil. I have invited Reverend Hale of Beverly to come to Salem. He will get to the bottom of this." Within days 19 Salem villagers are swing-ing on the gallows. Religion and the law unite to purge "the powers of darkness attacking this village". A round of petty jealousies becomes an orgy of execution.

in The Crucible, Arthur Miller used the saga of the Salem witches as a weapon against McCarthyism. The film version of the play opens this week, its director, Nicholas Hytner, finding new forms of McCarthyism in political correctness and revived-memory syndrome. I offer it in a more subtle form, the moral totalitarianism towards which we are being led by government ministers, curriculum

reformers and the Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks, in a book. The Politics of Hope, serialised in The Times this week.

Dr Sacks is an articulate spokesman for them all. To him, modern British society is

infused with evil, "a more random, chaotic, disordered world than the one we remember, or the one our parents knew." Libertarians and moral relativists" have broken the bonds of family, community and voluntary association that once guarded morality. They have reduced it to mere "lifestyle and convenience". Crime, drugs, child abuse, adultery and family decay are everywhere. As for how to confront this threat, the Chief Rabbi cries: "Sir, I refute it thus" and slams his fist on the Torah. Reverend Parris slammed his on the Bible.

Seventeenth-century Salem was a community after the Chief Rabhi's heart. It was a close-knit village of God-fearing men and women. True, some of the girls were unreliable and the black servants did odd things with chickens. But families were strong and self-reliant. There was little crime and much hard work. The Meeting House was the centre of moral education, its precepts enshrined in The Book. Yet the slightest upset and this paradise panicked. The precepts which the village leaders espoused were not questioned, they were made tyrannical. Men ceased

to think and re-enacted the rituals of all morally primitive societies. They repeated the Mayan blood sacrifices. Phoenician immolation. the Grand Inquisitor's auto-da-fe. The hysteric was king. The moral law is not the law of reason. It is the law of slam, whoosh, chop and snap. In Salem, it took 19 corpses to appease its rage.

We are more genteel. Dr Sacks's book begins as an elegant canter around the communitarian course. He is aware of history, citing Defoe, Fielding, Disraeli, Yeats and others who also felt, for reasons buried deep in bourgeois psychology, that their society was going through a unique moral decay. Yet he soon gives in to the fallacy of the lost Golden Age. How else can a priest cry wolf? If a community is healthy, if the centre is holding rather well and anarchy not loosed upon the world, who needs a moral doctor? The world hurries on by. It will not listen; it will not buy the book.

Dr Sacks emoloys ludicrous Victorian statistics to conclude that 19th-century Britain was a haven of family order, moral rectitude and falling crime. He then quotes pages of middle-aged

"Why-oh-why" journalism to prove that today is worse. "Cynicism about politicians," he writes, "is at a historic high and there is a general awareness of a breakdown in authority." Any newspaper cutting or league table will do to portray British society as mired in sin. The writer may offer an off-the-shelf prescription for salvation, in this case a theological "hope" resting on a revived Judaeo-Christian moral canon. In truth, the Chief Rabbi is merely offering a better class of

am one of his hated moral relativists. I believe that people hold moral views individually and collectively. But when moralities conflict - over divorce, abortion, free speech or even moral education - the conflict must be resolved politically, not by recourse to sacred texts. Dr Sacks claims that I cannot then "make public judgements of any kind, or sustain a coherent moral conversation." I have redefined morality as mere personal licence. I have abandoned the Judaeo-Christian tradition of received wisdom embodied in families, schools, churches and the law. I have



In judgment: Paul Scofield in The Crucible: the slightest upset and the community panicked

carried tolerance too far in the direction of crude utilitarianism. Even Voltaire did not go that far, nor did Tocqueville or Mill.

This line of argument is undeniably fashionable and will feature strongly in the coming election. It offers a useful apologia for the crime wave, the drugs culture, teenage pregnancy, divorce and such favourites of the moral hysteric as sex on television, foul language and motorway madness. All can be blamed on the young and the media. Yet this tactic has its price. Politicians are finding it hard at present to make prosperity a political issue. They spend so much time telling British electors that they are possessed of the Devil - as parents, teachers, working wives, civil servants that efforts to tell the voters in the next breath to "feel good" die on

the politicians' lips. I believe that the ability of a community to respect individual freedom of thought, speech and action while updating the rules by which it governs itself is the measure of its maturity. A refusal to accept that other people's values may be as passionately held as one's own is the road to Hell. Dr Sacks rightly stresses the role that social institutions play in structuring this respect. But to give them a coercive status, outside the context of democracy, is tribalism. I probably disagree with the Chief Rabbi and his church on a wide range of "moral" issues. I am sure it is best for all concerned that we settle our disagreement at a political rather than a moral tribunal.

This is the difference between Dr Sacks and me. I can refer our disagreement to the court of democracy. The logic of his argument is that he cannot. Like the animal rights campaigner or the anti-abortion activist, he must treat me as unconscionably immoral. His belief system is universal, historical and above democracy, a concept barely discussed in his book. Behind him I hear Judge Danforth in The Crucible: I tell you, Samuel, i shall not rest until every inch of this Province belongs again to God.

Dr Sacks refers frequently to two concepts much in vogue, that of the family and that of community. Both embrace sins and virtues. But to social historians, they are essentially divergent. Families are reactionary, introverted institutions.

Communities (at least open and democratic ones) are innovatory and dynamic. Conflicts between them - the conflicts described in The Crucible - must be resolved somehow. They will be resolved by war, hysteria or political institutions enjoying local consent. These institutions, like Tolstoy's freemasons, may uphold a hundred moralities. But the ones that must take the strain are the formal institutions not of morality but of ·-- · ·: : :: --

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democracy. I suggest to the Chief Rabbi a different apocalypse. Britain's Achilles Heel is not its moral institutions but its democratic ones. Their present degeneracy, in the face of "democratic centralism", is far more dangerous than headline hysterial about morals. Democratic institutions must convert moral disputes into political ones and seek to resolve them without bloodshed. That is why the democracies of parishes, towns, counties, regions, nations, global alliances must be kept in constant repair. They are what stop us flying at each other's throats.

Perhaps I can lead Dr Sacks in this direction. Otherwise both of us might end up in Salem, swinging on some moralist's rope.

## Ave Nigel

SATURNALIAN scenes down at Sissinghurst Castle in Kent as the author Nigel Nicolson celebrates the discovery of what he believes to be the site where the future Roman Emperor Vespasian crossed the Medway, thereby opening up Brit-

ain for Roman occupation. The idea of searching for the site,

Nigel Nicolson and Vespasian: messing around on the Medway



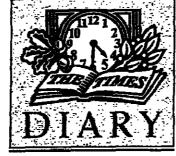
about measuring tides and watermarks and hunting for ancient shards. They found their spot close by the village of Snodland.

To commemorate the battle, Nic-Nicolson says, came to him last olson is calling for ideas from the summer when he was reading The Times series on Roman Britain. He Friends of Classics, a boisterous gang - of which he recently became a member - that is given to dinners in the Garrick Club and liberal quoting from the Attic orators. A group of Friends, including High Court judges, retired classics mistresses and Yana Zarisi, a choreographer of Greek plays, will be heading down to Sissinghurst

over the Easter Bank Holiday. There they will prod around in their tweeds and chew over Nicolson's plan for a monument. "I would," he says, "like a five-ton block of Kentish rag."

## Grazie mille

ITALY may provide refuge for Douglas Hogg, the sorely misunderstood Agriculture Minister. After the censure vote last week on his conduct throughout the BSE crisis, there was some busy faxing in Rome. "Caro Douglas, " wrote Il Ministro delle Risorse Agricole,



Alimentarie, Forestali, Michele Pinto. "I would like to express my warmest congratulations on the positive outcome of the vote in the Chamber of Commons." After a passage in which he ac-

knowledges the "many initiatives that have been adopted in the UK in order to face" BSE, he finishes: "I look forward to meet you at the occasion of the next Agricultural Council." All so different from those stroppy Germans.

## Split ends

BARONESS THATCHER'S hairdo has come in for some impertinent comment in New York in

advance of a visit she will make there next week.

The pro-Sinn Fein Irish Northern Aid Committee of New York, trying to excite opposition to Lady T's presence in the city. Yesterday they expressed "outrage at the continued feting" of her "by wellmeaning Americans who are drawn in by her slick tongue and her hundred dollar haircut".

Irish groups intend to organise a protest outside Lady Thatcher's ho-



"I was hoping we might have had dinner in a restaurant Mr Le Carré"

ager James Sherwin is unfazed by such matters). Activists have been told to bring bin lids and whistles. but they may need to improve on their recent protest outside the British Consulate. Only two people

## No loot

LEICESTER University desperately needs £80,000 to buy the papers of the playwright Joe Orton. The Orton family are selling them and would like the papers to stay in Leicester where Orton grew up, but they would also like the £80,000

the lottings might fetch in America. Sir Peter Hall, director and honorary Leicester graduate, is leading the campaign for the university library to buy them. Orton himself was ambiguous about libraries, where he used to like pasting pictures of naked, tattooed men into critical studies of John Betjeman.

## Jagged edge

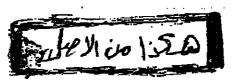
AFTER MUCH speculation, it is now confirmed that Mick Jagger



Madonna: revolutionary act

and Madonna are to collaborate on a new film. Jagger runs a film production company called Jagged, which is making the life of Tina Modotti, the Mexican revolution-

ary and photographer. Modotti, like Evita, whom Madonna recently played on film, came from humble origins and took an eclectic and sometimes outrageous selection of lovers, "When I read Tina's biography," says Jagger. "I just saw Madonna."





## **BEYOND SPIN**

After Wirral: no excuses, only prophecies of doom

As they return to their constituencies, many Conservative MPs will be contemplating the prospect of enforced leisure after May 1. In the ranking of constituencies by the size of their majority, from the most marginal to the safest. Wirral South comes well down the list. Some 125 Tory seats are deemed more likely to be lost; and Labour's Ben Chapman won with nearly 8,000 votes to spare.

There are no excuses. This is the result that the spindoctors cannot spin. After a turnout of 73 per cent the Tories cannot claim that their supporters stayed at home and allowed Labour to win. Tory voters in large numbers deliberately switched to Labour. The swing — 17 per cent — may have been slightly smaller than in previous Labour victories; but it is still four times the size needed to win Labour the general election. So close to election day, this should be chilling for Conservative Central Office.

Nor did Labour win by squeezing the third party. The Liberal Democrat vote held up remarkably well. If this was a protest vote, it was a very odd one. Tories who want to annoy their own party tend either to abstain or to vote Lib Dem. The new Labour voters of Wirral South seem to have cast positive votes for Tony Blair.

This is a naturally Conservative constituency. The Tory candidate. Les Byrom, was stronger than usual. There was even a powerful local issue, the preservation of grammar schools, for the Tories to exploit. But Wirral proved the Conservatives' worst fears: New Labour can win over middleclass, successful and prosperous people even when good arguments are aired.

Of course, by-elections are not the real thing. But MORI did ask the voters of Wirral how they would vote in the subsequent general election. Most said that they would not change their minds. By contrast, NOP found big Tory leads when it asked the same question of voters in Eastbourne and Ribble Valley, which the Conservatives lost in by-elections and won back thereafter. Labour does not need to hold on to Wirral South in order to win the general election. If Mr Chapman is still an MP on May 2, Mr Blair is likely to have a big majority.

So, with defeat in May the most likely outcome, what can the Conservatives do? First, they have to give themselves a jolt. Secondly, they must try to give a jolt to the electorate. Too many ministers yesterday claimed that Wirral was an aberration, that voters would see sense on May I, and that the party was still on course for victory. Apart from making themselves sound as if they have only the feeblest of grips on reality. this also strikes voters as arrogant.

It is better for them to admit what everyone else knows: that Labour, on current form, is set to trounce them. The prospect of an unfettered Blair government that could be in power for more than one term is the "midsummer nightmare" that the Prime Minister tried to conjure yesterday. If Conservatives want to bestir those former supporters who think it might be entertaining to give Labour a chance, their only possible message is "wake up before it's too late!"

Only high-risk tactics have a chance of making a difference now. Voters are faced with a Conservative Party whose senior members vilify each other publicly, whose Cabinet ministers cannot agree on matters of the highest policy and some of whom secretly hanker after defeat. The manner and timing of Lord Tebbit's character assassination of Michael Heseltine is just a small visible part of a massive mostly invisible problem for Mr Major.

In many areas, ministers have governed sensibly and effectively over the past few years. But the whole of this government seems manifestly less than the sum of its parts. If the Prime Minister wants the country to wake up, he has to do so himself and stay in that state and persuade his colleagues consistently to follow him.

## **FAVOURITE SON**

A new George Bush is this year's Great Right Hope

In the United States election campaigns never stop, they simply change gear. It is barely five weeks since Bill Clinton again took the oath of office, yet contenders are already making plans for the year 2,000. The extractidinary fundraising scandal that has struck the Administration, implicating both President and Vice-President in the process, has make the once smooth transfer of the Democratic Party into the hands of Albert Gore appear rather less certain.

Republicans, until recently still in shock from the defeat of Robert Dole and the troubles of Newt Gingrich, can barely contain their glee. The Vice-President had long been seen as the Mr Clean of American politics and a devilishly difficult opponent. In their search for a candidate of their own. many party strategists look not to Washington but to Austin, Teccas. The proposed standard-bearer is Governor George Bush. son of the former President, who is interviewed by our US Editor on page 19 today.

If a computer were asked to award the nomination it would summise that the ideal Republican requires four assets: a famous name, the right position, the ability to raise some \$20 million into campaign coffers, and a set of popular issues. Alone among the field Mr Bush can match that profile. The son of a former President, he hardly lacks for name recognition. Albert Gore cannot protest on this score as his own father was a Senator. While Democrats are often willing to offer their top spot to lesser known figures - McGovern, Carter, Dukakis, Clinton -Republicans prefer more established material - Nixon, Reagan, Bush, Dole - and

usually select the early front-runner. History indicates that Austin trumps Washington as the base for a presidential bid. The Dole debacle was one of many campaigns from Congress that failed to inspire voters. Only one serving Republican Senator - the undistinguished Warren Harding 75 years ago - has ever attained the Oval Office. By contrast, every election in the last quarter century has featured at least, one man who has served as a state supremo. The best way to run for Washington is

against it and from a considerable distance. Mr Bush can also boast some distinctly tangible assets. He is a southerner in a party increasingly dominated by the old confederacy. As a serving Governor of wealthy Texas he can easily raise the vast funds now needed to run for the Oval Office. Potential contributors to his cause will know that even if he is not elected President he will stay in charge of the second most populous state and thus be well worth cultivating.

In the real world computers do not select candidates. Without a coherent philosophy and a set of compelling policies the best theoretical contender will fall short in the real contest. As Governor, Mr Bush has actually implemented the agenda on crime. education, and welfare that Republicans in Congress have merely talked about. That record has produced enthusiastic support from many conservatives who were always deeply suspicious of his father.

For the moment, at least, Mr Bush is the Great Right Hope, It may, of course, all come to nothing. Before embarking on more ambitious plans he must be re-elected in Texas next year. This is far from a formality as no Governor there has managed that since 1974. On present polls he should make it, in which case few doubt that Washington would be in his sights. Americans will decide if he is really their favourite son.

## PRIMAKOV'S PROFESSION

Old comrades exchange coded books at embassy reception

The first gale of March whipped the overcoat around le Carre's calves. He shivered, but not from the cold. Moscow's Kensington Outpost is set well back from the last private road in London and shrouded by rhododendrons. Its oriental carapace covers a high-tech communications and intelligence factory. The long-range dishes and antennae are hidden by Xanadu nurrets.

Although he had never set foot inside the Outpost before, le Carré knew its plan as well as that of the Circus. And although he had never met the man who came to greet him before, he knew him well from their fencing across the world and over 30 years. When the KGB was torn apart in 1991, Yesgeni Primakov was put in charge of its foreign intelligence arm. Eugene is not an obvious name for a spy. But he overhauled the Moscow Circus ruthlessly. Primakov was the only senior politician appointed by Gorbaches who has won the confidence of Yeltsin. And last night he invited his opponent and chronicler, le Carré, to dinner. Why?

Between them, in fact and fiction, they had removed their secret world from the phoney gloss of James Bond. They had brought in from the cold such spooks' jargon as moles and sleepers. With their sad and necessary betrayals, their grey tone and squalor, they had brought authenticity to espionage, and to the meta-espionage of thrillers. Now with the ending of the Cold War, le Carre thought

their occupation had gone.

He bowed awkwardly and handed Primakov a bookseller's plastic bag. "I thought you might like to see some of my later work after I left the department. General," he mumbled. "You remember Karla and Smiley's lighter? We players of the great game like to keen our little tokens and souvenirs of the opposition.

The smile climbed briefly into those Siberian eyes. Primakov held up his own hardback copy of Smiley's People, "Snap, as you say, in your childish card game. You see. Mr je Carré, i am already an old fan. Your Foreign Secretary gave me this copy of your work earlier today. An agreeable man, I think. But a party politician, with his mind on the ephemeral matters of election and the succession. We should really have arranged to have the books picked up from a deadletter drop on Hampstead Heath, nve pravda? See, it has your name inscribed. though that is not your real autograph."

"Do not look so sad, my old enemy and friend. Politicians and governments come and go. But we professionals of the secret world go on for ever. What do you think spies and thriller-writers are: priests, saints and martyrs? They are the ones who sit in the shadows and pull the strings, whoever is in power. They play cowboys and Indians to brighten their rotten little lives. They are the necessary muckrakers and scene-shifters. And we shall always be needed, whoever is in power. And now, shall we go to supper "

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### No regrets over Heseltine review

From Lord Tebbit, CH

Sir, I find it sad that so many journalists - notably within the electronic media - should have had so much to say about my review in The Speciator of Michael Crick's new biography of Michael Heseltine (report today). some of them without having made even a nodding acquaintance with the

Certainly I am not uncritical of the man who set out to bring down Prime Minister Thatcher, but I also ventured the opinion that "it would be wrong to forget his [ministerial] successes" and I listed some of them, notably the campaign against CND for which I said Mr Crick gave him too little

Yes, I did use the words "tacky, tasteless and self-centred". That was a description of the conduct that Mr Crick (not I) attributed to his subject. Perhaps those who read Mr Crick's book will judge for themselves if he was fair or I was "over the

To accuse Mr Heseltine of being a prey to ambition seems to me neither novel nor unfair. As to the fairness of my view that he has a macho streak. or that he resented a woman holding the office to which he aspired, others must judge.

Perhaps some of the furore arises because these days, it seems, most book reviews comprise little about the book and mostly the reviewers' thoughts on its subject. Unusually. my review is mostly about the book and what it, not I, says about Mr Heseltine.

By the way, I know nothing of the arrangements being made for the Conservative election campaign this vear, so for all I know your Political Correspondent, Andrew Pierce, may be right or wrong in his speculation Heseltine to play peace role in heat of Tory campaign", February 27j.

However, I do know, and it is a matter of public record, what hap-pened in 1987. Mr Pierce is wrong to say that "on wobbly Thursday opinion polls showed the Tory lead to have slumped". A single rogue poll showed quite wrongly that the Conservative lead had narrowed.

As to the old chestnut that, in Mr Pierce's words, "¡Tim] Bell's advertisements won the day and Mrs Thatcher the election" one would have to be a political simpleton to believe a couple of advertisements won the 1987 elec-

Better by far to let Lord Young of Graffham's own words from his autobiography consign that story to the trash can. On page 222 of his book. The Enterprise Years, he tells how, late in the night of "wobbly Thursday" at Number 10, he

wandered downstairs and there was David Wolfson (Mrs. Thatcher's former political chief of staff recalled for the election campaign] waving a piece of paper and jooking cheerful I and. Have you got it "Yes, the said, "we've not the poll results. 44 (per cent) Conservatives, 34 Labour, 30 Allianac

And so it was, before a "Tim Belladvertisement" appeared in the press

Obviously yesterdays poll had been a

nigue Immoniately I knew we had the

election won and correcting was going to

- if ever it did. Yours faithfully.

TEBBIT. House of Lords. February 25

From Mr Richard Wiseman

Sir. This is not a good time for Lord Tebiat to be condemning Mr Heseltine - or unyone else - for standing for la hopelessly safe Labour sear. There is going to be a lot of it about

Yours buthfully R M MINEMIN. 2 (Jakwood Road, NWII, February 28

## South Wirral result

From Mr Denno Perg

Sir. This present finitus in the ginernance of the country must surely be of concern to everyone, regardless of party. It is said that the South Wirral result, which you report today, while geing clear confirmation of the wishes of the people, removes any Importing doubts that the general election will be deferred until May I.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister and his colleagues are spending more and more time away from Westminster - John Major, for example, is off canvassing today in Scotland, and Michael Howard is hor-toot to Wirral to start campaigning there to reclaim

While another nine weeks of such procrasmation may benefit the Con-Servative Party, they must be at the expense of government. John Major is within his rights to defer the election and the last moment, but his motives are clearly wrong. Clinging to power in this way is both unseemly and damagee2

Yours nathalk DENNIS BERRY. II Farracti Acada Cirise, New Malden, Surrey February 28.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

## Influence of the Ulster Unionists

From Mr Mark Johnston

Sir, It is with great sadness, and some anger, that I read Mr Michael Bicknell's letter (February 21) deploring the influence of the Unionist vote at Westminster. "Most English people of my acquaintance", he wrote, "regard Ireland in general, and Ulster in particular, as a confounded nuisance."

Mr Bicknell may feel he owes no debt to history, but it remains a fact that the majority of the population of Ulster are loyal British subjects whose forefathers contributed fully to Britain's industrial might in more prosperous times, and who fought and often died for King and Country in a variety of conflicts.

As one of those loyal subjects, it is with increasing distress that I have observed the significant weakening of the Union during the present long period of Conservative government. How could two Tory prime ministers - one whose fall was at least partly caused by her robust defence of British sovereignty, the other who actively promotes himself as the great defender of the United Kingdom constitution - have overseen the gradual passing of power and influence over Northern Ireland to the Irish Republic. through instruments such as the Anglo-Irish Agreement and the Framework Document, despite the clear and consistent opposition of the democratic majority in the province?

The answer, I fear, lies in the attitude of Mr Bicknell and his kind. It represents exactly the response that the IRA hopes to engender by carrying out atrocities such as the Docklands bombing or the murder of a British soldier in Armagh: a response that creates the type of atmosphere in which the Government can attempt to tackle the problem by means of thinly disguised appeasement.

## Eve of the beholder

From Mr Michael Webber

Sir, It is too facile for Richard Cork to write, in his review of Post-Impressionists at the Barbican (Arts, February 25), that he thinks that "our gallery directors and trustees disgraced themselves" when, in 1912, they did not buy paintings by Henri Matisse and others at what are now perceived to be bargain-basement prices.

public of the time. It is thus unfair. using that invaluable hindsight, to blame the public, even a "sophisticated" public, for not being at the front of the field alongside the great creators. That this is no disgrace may be seen

## Oxford admissions

From Mr. Ruth Deech

Sir One year's figures, taken even before A-level results are out, form no sound basis for an editorial opinion un ( ryford admissions fleading article, "Into Oxford", February 26).

Changes in the entrance examination were designed not for the purposes of social engineering to the advantage of the maintained sector. but in order to achieve equity between the half of candidates who took the examination and the other half who refied on A-level grade predictions. In this it has succeeded.

The examination was also not regarded as a totally reliable indicator of success in some subjects, whereas the correlation between A-level grades and Finals class is strong. Depending on the subject, a variety of assessment methods are still used, including short written tests, and A-level offers themselves may be fine-tuned.

Yours sincerely. n hairman. Joint Undergraduate Admissions Committee). Oxford Colleges Admissions Office, University Offices. Wellington Square, Oxford. February 26.

## Food labelling From the President of the

National Farmers' Union

Sir. I agree with your leader. Thought for food" (February 24), that labelling should advise customers

and consumers of crops and food produced by genetic modification. The NFU has spent considerable time with food processors, manufac-

turers, caterers and retailers as well as consumer representatives ensuring that consumers can make an informed choice. The union is encouraging the food industry to separate products which contain viable modified genetic material and label them as such at the point of

Farmers and growers may have to adopt new sciences as they meet the needs of an ever-increasing population. They can do so only if consumers are well informed about the new techniques, and content to purchase genetically modified foods.

Yours faithfully DAVID NAISH. President, National Farmers' Union. Agriculture House, in 4 Shafteshury Avenue, WC2. February 24.

### With this gloomy scenario in mind I welcome the influence of Unionist MPs in Westminster, albeit that the representatives of majority opinion in Northern treland will only enjoy this influence for as long as the present

parliamentary arithmetic prevails.

Yours faithfully. MARK JOHNSTON, 22 Undine Road, E14.

From Professor K. T. V. Grattan

Sir, I found Michael Bicknell's letter not just a disappointing comment upon the legitimate actions of the representatives of that part of the United Kingdom in whìch I was born but no longer live, but more importantly an attack upon the essence of our parliamentary system.

The UK is governed as one and, irrespective of the vote on the censure motion against Douglas Hogg (report, February 17), it must be good that individual or smaller groupings of MPs with a real commitment to an issue can influence the actions of the

largest party.

This I believe is to the real benefit of all the people governed from Westminster. Removing this factor, with its clear consequence for any other smaller group in Parliament. surely means a diminution in the Government's accountability to the electorate through constituency MPs.

I, for one, look forward to individual members being able to continue to exercise what is their rightful influence over our affairs in the next parliament, whether or not I agree with the way they exercise their votes on specific matters.

Yours faithfully. K. T. V. GRATTAN, 7 Gilbey Close, Ickenham, Middlesex. February 22.

a man who was very sympathetic towards modern art) hated the

blurred, speed-obsessed work of the

It is the belief that all writers and

members of the wider public should

understand and appreciate all the art

of their own time that leads to today's

widespread uncritical acceptance of

whatever is hung on the wall, placed.

the kind of people who would not have

been invited, nor would have wished

to serve, on the regulation-bound

(contemporary) Italian Futurists".

We are always told that the great artists of all ages are in advance of the

from Richard Cork's own review. where he tells us that the highly sensitive antennae of Roger Fry torganiser of the 1910 Post-Impressionist exhibition in London and

Unshaved bulls

boards of trustees.

The Garden Flat.

February 25.

Yours sincerely, MICHAEL WEBBER,

on a screen.

From Señor José Carlos Arévalo

19 Netherhall Gardens, NW3.

Sir. Your leading article. "Shaved bulls" (February 27), overlooks what happened in the Valencia bullring last July 27, when the torero Francisco Gazquez was killed by a bull from the ranch of Gimenez Indarte. The ease with which the horn penetrated his body contradicts your statement that bullfighting has become a tawdry pantomime" in which "stunts prevail over substance".

The death of Francisco Gázquez is apt" (your term) because the bull that killed him was rejected at the first veterinary inspection on suspicion of its horns having been blunted. It was subsequently readmitted. After the tragedy the official vets stated that the horns were "very sharp".

On December 3 a leading Madrid newspaper, El Pais, reported that 194 bullfights were celebrated in the province of Seville during the 1996 season and that there was only one confirmed case of the horns having been "shaved".

Yours faithfully, JOSE CARLOS AREVALO. C/Mayor, 6-3. 1., 28013 Madrid. February 27.

## Down on his knees

From Mr Hugh Lee

Sir, It is not true that, at Harrow anyway, Alan Guy Elliot-Smith (obituary, February 25) took no part in team games. He had no high opinion of his athletic prowess, conscious as he was that two colleagues on the staff were former rugby internationals (one Scottish, one Irish), but he had formidably knobbly knees and his high-stepping action, as a wing three-quarter, was altogether too much for any boy who. in the School v. Masters match, dared tackle him

This unique gait on the playing field did not always serve Elliot well. Occasionally he turned out for a mixed cricket team (boys and beaks) called The Outcasts. Most Saturdays we challenged the sewage farm and other neighbouring institutions. Once, in snatching a quick run, his knee struck him under the chin, and he was carried off.

Yours truly, HUGH LEE (Pupil, Harrow School, 1932-37). 83 The Vineyard, Richmond, Surrey. February 25.

Weekend Money letters, page 46

## When boars heed call of the wild

From Dr W. D. Booth

Sir, Mr John Cooper writes (letter, February 26) of his concern that wild boars are roaming loose in England when he thought that his ancestor Richard de Gylpyn had slain the last

Wild boar farming in Britain started over a decade ago with the importation of blood lines of German, French and East European origin. There are now around 40 farms from Cornwall to Scotland, with 500 sows producing 2,000 or so young a year for meat or herd expansion. Wild-boar farmers are licensed by local authorities under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act, and stringent regulations, including high security fencing, are

Sometimes, like domestic livestock, wild boar escape, but these breakouts are usually easily contained. How many wild boar are on the loose around the Kent/Sussex border has yet to be ascertained but if there should be large numbers, then we could face another "alien" introduction to our fauna, such as the mink, grey squirrel and Muntjac deer, but one that is more of a threat to

agriculture than wild life. But is wild boar strictly an alien. since it was once indigenous to Britain? There could be conflicting views on the rights of the wild-boar farmers, mainstream farmers, conservationists, and perhaps the pro and anti-hunting supporters if wild boar roam free again beyond immediate control. But some might consider this the animal's right?

Yours sincerely, DEREK BOOTH. Fen End Cottage. 30 Fen Road, Milton, Cambridge. February 26.

From Mr M. A. Wyldbore-Smith

Sir, Quite obviously, John Cooper's ancestor did not slay the last wild boar in England, nor have they sneaked through the Chunnel. Some mistaken people say they escaped from a farm during the hurricane in 1987.

Personally, I believe they have simply been maintaining a low profile and are about to make a very welcome

piled or thrown on the floor, or shown Yours faithfully. M. A. WYLDBORE-SMITH, The fact that some exceptionally Moat Cottage, astute individuals collected many of Truggist Lane, Berkswell, Coventry. the "avant-garde" artists is not rele-February 27.

## No joking matter

From Ms Jan Morris

Sir, Now that the ethnic joke is mercifully out of fashion, and only crass bigots make cruel jokes about Jews, blacks, Arabs or Irishmen, may appeal through your columns on St David's Day for similar courtesy to be shown the Welsh?

Nobody wants to see the Old Welsh Joke banned, but the constant juvenile mocking in most of the English press of everything Welsh — everything good as well as everything bad - has surely gone too far. It is depressing for our national morale, it is discouraging for our young people, it is disheartening for our artists, it is bad for our business community, it is unfair to our history and it is infuriating to those of us who take our Weish loyalties around the world, and find friends of Wales wherever we go.

Moreover, it seems to me to show an uncertain immaturity among the English, unworthy of so old and haughty a nation (Milton's epithet, you will doubtless remember, for the Welsh themselves).

Yours faithfully, JAN MORRIS, Trefan Morys. Llanystumdwy, Gwynedd. February 28.

### Hope deferred From Mr Arnold Darbyshire

Sir. Bob Hope would appear to be regarded by his former valet, Greg Donovan, as a hero, deserving a knighthood (PHS, Diary, February 24). There goes another of my cherished certainties!

Yours etc. ARNOLD DARBYSHIRE, The Syke, Heyhouses Lane, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire. February 24.

## Chinese numbers

From Mr John A. Harries-Harris

Sir, Deng Xiaoping's 100,000 mourners reads as if his was a grand send-off (report, February 25). However, in a country of 1.2 billion it is only equal to 1/12,000 of the population and should be seen in perspective.

The UK's population of about 60 million would produce some 5,000 to witness the head of state's cortege that is a single line 1.250 metres long either side of the Mall.

If you progress this further it is equivalent, in the case of Scunthorne, which has a catchment of about 70,000, to some 5.8 people turning up to see Scunthorpe United play at home.

Yours faithfully. JOHN A. HARRIES-HARRIS. 47 Berkeley Street. Scunthorpe, South Humberside. February 26.



## **COURT CIRCULAR**

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE** February 28: His Excellency Mr Kanat B. Saudabaev was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Kazakstan to the Court of St James's. Mrs Saudahaeva was also re-

ceived by Her Majesty.
Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs)

Sir John Gielgud was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit. Sir Edward Ford (Secretary and Registrar of the Order of Meriti

General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Vic-

February 28: The Princess Royal, President. British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this morning visited Alderman (Thurston Trading Limited). Picton House, Wargrave Road, Twyford, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire (Mr Philip

Her Royal Highness this after-noon visited EB) Foods Limited,

Weekend royal

engagements

### School news Edgehill College, Bideford,

Prince Edward, as president, will attend a screening of A Journey of a Letter and The Gingerbread House by the Children's Film Unit at BAFTA, 195 Piccadilly, at 10.55; and will open the Thames FM Studios, Brentham House, Hampton Wick. Kingston upon Thames

The Princess Royal, as Patron of Scottish Rugby Union, will attend the Scotland v Ireland International match at Murrayfield at

The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the South Bank Foundation, will attend a concert by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra the Festival Hall at

Wyndyke Furlong, Abingdon Business Park. Abingdon, to in-augurate a new building, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire (Mr

Lady Rose Windsor is 17 today.

Mr Harry Belafonte, singer and actor, 70; Mr David Broome, show

jumper, 57: Mr Douglas Bunn,

founder, All England Jumping Course, Hickstead, 69; Sir Robert Calderwood, former chief exec-utive, Strathchyde Regional Coun-

cil, 65; Miss Florence Calvert,

former Principal, St Mary's Coll-

ege. Durham, 85; Mr Lestie Chris-tie, trade unionist, 58; Mr Andrew

Faulds, MP and actor, 74; Sir Allan

Green, QC, former Director of

Public Prosecutions, 62; Air Chief Marshal Sir Lewis Hodges, 79; Mr Martyn Jones, MP, 50; Sir Michael

Kerr, former Lord Justice of Ap-

peal, 76; Captain Timothy Laurence.

42: Professor James Lister, paedia-trician, 74; Mr John Napier, stage

designer, 53; Commandant Dame

Nancy Robertson, former director, WRNS, 88; Major-General P.T.

Tower, 80: Mr Brian Waites,

golfer, 57; Sir Gerald Whent, non

executive chairman, chief exec-

HMS President
Rear-Admiral A.P. Hoddinott,
Executive-Director of the Inter-

national Bar Association, was the

principal guest at the annual Gunroom Dinner held last night onboard HMS President, by per-

mission of the Commanding Officer. Sub-Lieutenant J.C.

Anderson, RNR, President of the Gunroom Mess, presided.

1 Squadron HAC Major-General M.A. Willcocks, Assistant Chief of the General

Staff, was the principal guest at the anual dinner of I Squadron

Honourable Artillery Company held last night at Armoury House

Major W.J. Lovell presided. Major

G.R. Clarke and Second Lieuten ant S.C. Briggs also spoke.

Past and present members of 39th Regiment Royal Artillery held their annual reunion dinner in

Mr Anthony Hammond, Solicitor

and Director-General, Legal Services of the Department of Trade

and Industry, to be Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor in succession to the late Mr Michael

Judge James retired yesterday from the Circuit Bench on the

39th Regiment RA

Appointment

Lawrence Saunders.

Retirement

utive, The Vodalone Group, 70.

Service dinners

TODAY:

Hugo Brunner). The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, this evening attended an Oil Club Dinner at the Thistle Hotel, Cambridge Street, Glasgow, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Licutenant of the City of Glasgow (Mr Patrick Lally, the Rt Hon the Lord ST JAMES'S PALACE

February 28: The Prince of Wales this morning opened the "Muslims in Britain" exhibition at the British

Council offices, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, and attended a Reception.

His Royal Highness later flew to
Chittagong and visited the Cairn
Energy offshore drilling rig in the
Bay of Bengal and met British and

Commonwealth personnel.
The Prince of Wales, Vice-Patron, the British Council, afterwards opened the British Council Study Centre, Chiragong, and attended a Reception for the Brit-

ish and local community at the Honorary Consul's residence. His Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception for the British community at the British High Commission, Dhaka.

The Governors are pleased to announce the following Scholar-ships for September 1997:

Prep School: 8• Scholarships - Christopher Bragg, Alice Lyddon, Jonathan Norman, Geraldine Watson.

Taylor.

11+ Music Scholarships - Naomi Langdon, Sophie Perks.

11+ Sports Scholarship - Philip Lavant House Rosemead

Vith Form scholarships for September 1997 have been awarded to Kate Salter and Susannah Bush. An II+ entrance bursary has been won by Kimberley Bird of Stanier House Junior School.

## Weekend birthdays





Roger Daltrey, actor and rock singer, is 53 today; Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of the Soviet Union, will be 66 tomorrow

TOMORROW:

Mr Harman Grisewoo

Miss Pat Arrowsmith, pacifist, 67; Miss Margaret Barbieri, ballerina, 50; Mr Harry Blech, violinist and conductor, 87; Lady Moyra

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Harman Grisewood, former controller.

Third Programme and chief assis-tant to the Director General of the

BBC, was held yesterday at St Mary's, Cadogan Street, Canon Vincent Berry, Father Benet Per-ceval, OSB, and the Rev Ernest

Rea, Head of Religious Broadcast-

ing, BBC, officiated.

Sir Christopher Bland, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the BBC, and Mr Frank Gillard

read the lessons. Ms Fiona Mc-

Carthy paid tribute and Sir Roger Cary and Mr Daniel Grisewood,

nephew, gave addresses. Among

nephew, gave addresses. Among others present were:

Mrs Grisewood (widow), Mr and Mrs Adrian Balley (son-in-law and daughter). Mrs Peter Grisewood (sister-in-law), Mr David and Lady Daphne Balley (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mrs Daniel Grisewood, Miss Sarah Grisewood, Mrs Geruma Situari, Mr John Grisewood, Mr Francis Grisewood, Mrs Anne Kaye, Mrs Jose Bacon, Mr George Bacon, Major F H Cardozo. Mr and Mrs Anthony Balley, Mr Phillip Balley, Mr Jonathan Balley, Mr Pintip Balley, Mr Ravensdale.

ionathan Balley, Lord and Lady Ravensdale.
Viscount and Viscountess Chandos, Lady Swann, Lady Freyberg, the Hon Mrs Anne Lamb, Lady Cary, Sir Tatton Sykes, Lady Rougler, Lady (Ian) Trethowan, Lady Green.
Mr John Birt (Director-General, BBC) with past and present members of staff, Mr Peregrine Barry (Sovereign Milliary Order of Malta), Mr Michael Bunce (Royal Television Society) and Mrs Bunce, Ms Anne Price Owen (David Jones Society). Ms Label Quigly (representing the

rice Owen Lord Jones Society, in Isabel Oulgly (representing the Editor, The Tablet). Mr. John Arkell, Miss Jane Asiell, Mrs Philip Astiey, Dr. J. Betterfidge, Mr. Stephen, Bonargee, Mr. Paul Bonner, Mrs Andrew Boyle, Mr. James Bredin, Mr. Nigel Bruce, Dr. John Cain, Mrs. Graham Greene, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Miall, Mr. and Mrs. Luke

Browne, former superinændent-in-chief, St John Ambulance Brigade, 79; Sir Leonard Crossland, former chairman, Ford Motor Company, 83; Rear-Admiral Sir

Luncheons

Lord Parry

HM Government Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Sec-

retary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the

host at a luncheon given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of Mr

Yevgeny Primakov, Russian Min-ister for Foreign Affairs.

The Lord Chancellor and the

Leader of the House of Lords and

Lord Privy Seal were entertained

by Lord Parry at luncheon held on Thursday at the House of Lords to

mark St David's Day. Lord Geraint, Lord Parry, Mr Brian Blake, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, KG, the

High Commissioner for Canada, the Lord Chancellor, the American

Ambassador, the High Commis-

sioner for South Africa, the Irish Ambassador and the Chief of the

and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry, 71; Mr John Gardner, composer, 80; Captain Sir Donald Gosling, RNR, joint chairman, National Car Parks, 68; Mr R.E. Groves, former chairman, Mayer International, 77; Lord Howie of Troon, 73; Cardinal Basil Hume, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, 74; Dame Naomi James, author and yachtswoman, 48; Mr Robert Lloyd, opera singer, 57; Mr Peser Longman, director, Theatres Trust, 51; Sir John Manduell, composer, 69; Mr Hugh Monro, Headmaster, Clifton College, 47; Mr Lou Reed, rock singer, 54: Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Richardson, 68; Mr Robert Simpson, composer, 76; Mr John Tusa, former managing director, BBC World Service, 61; Mr J.P.R. Williams, former rugby player and orthopaedic surgeon, 48; Mr Ian Woosnam, golfer, 39.

Charles Darlington, 79; Lord Elton, 67; Professor Michael J.G.

Farthing, Dean, St Bartholomew's

## Memorial service Dinners Rittner, Mr and Mrs Denys Sall, Mr Harry Middleton, Mr John Green, Mr Robin Brightwell, Miss Cathy Evans, Mrs Olga Calon, Mrs John Graham Campbell, Mr George Campey, Mr Nigel Bornham Carter, Mr John Crawley, Mr George Eccles, Mrs Jereny Edwards. Miss Rosemary Fitch, Mr John Grss, Mr Don Graham, Mr John Grss, Mr Don Graham, Mr John Grss, Mr David Holmes, Mr and Hearst, Mr Peter Hill, Mr Edward Hodgidn, Mr David Holmes, Mr and Mrs Stanley Honeyman, Mrs Alexander Hope, Mr Michael Leader, Mr and Mrs Bruce Martin, Ms Caroline Millington, Mr Michael Robinson, Dr Catherine Renton, Mr Roger Venables and many other Irrends and former colleagues.

St David's Day London Weisli

Sir John Meurig Thomas, FRS, was the guest of honour at a St David's Day London Welsh Celebration dimer held last night at the Savoy Hotel. Mr Alun Thomas presided. Mrs Beryl Thomas proposed the toast to the immortal Memory of St David and Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, and Mr Peter Brown, Crown Prosecutor for North Wales, also Prosecutor for North Wales, also spoke. Among others present were lord and Lady Geraint, Lady Williams of Mostyn. the Hon Gaenor Howells, the Hon Mrs Rhlannon Chapman, the Hon Edward and Mrs Illife, Lady Thomas, Sir John Cadogan, Sir Maldwyn and Lady Nicholas and Sir Colin and Lady Marshall.

Earl Alexander of Tunis Earl Alexander of Tunis presi at the annual dinner of the British Tunisian Society held last night at the House of Lords. The Ambassador of Tunisia. Sir John Banham, Sir Alexander Stirling

and Mr Stephen Day, chairman of the society, and Mrs Day were among those present. Cambridge '99 Rowing Club The Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire presented the Briscoe Oar to Mr David Layton and Mr Keith Weller at the annual

men's dub dinner of the Cammen's club diffuer of the Cam-bridge '99 Rowing Club held last night at the University Arms Hotel, Cambridge. Mr Michael Marshall, president, was in the chair. Mr John Garrett, Mr Mar-tin Humphries, Mr David Platt

## **Forthcoming** marriages

Mr W. Barnes and Miss L. Jackson-Moore The engagement is announced between William, son of the late Charles and Eliza Barnes, of Reading, Berkshire, and Lindy, only daughter of the late Dr Eric Jackson-Moore and of Mrs Bara

Jackson-Moore, now of Maridon, Devue. Mr T.J.D. Crickard and Miss A.M. Fletcher

The engagement is announced between Timothy, youngest son of Mr Trevor Crichard, of Seaton, Devon, and Mrs Madeleine Price, of Kettering, Northamptonshire, and Alice, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Fletcher, of Wimbledon, London.

Mr G.E.J.A. Doughty and Miss V.L. Camp The engagement is announced between George Edward, son of the late Mr Edward Doughty and the late Mrs Suna Prevost, and Victoria, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Camp, of Strete,

Dr M.J.G. Familton and Miss V.E. Campbell The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Dr and Mrs

H. Pamilton, of Hepotit, Morpeth, Northumberland, and Virginia, elder daughter of Mrs S. Campbell, of Lewes, East Sussex. Mr O.R. Hall Allen and Miss C.W.A.G. Hectors

The engagement is announced between Olivier, son of Mr and Mrs Rodney Hall Alien, of Kensington, London, and Chantal, daughter of Mr and Mrs Marcel Hectors, of Geldrop, Netherlands. Mr J.W. Hume and Miss N.E.J. Miller

and Miss N.E.J. Miller
The engagement is announced between James William, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Hume, of King's Lynn, Norfolk, and Natasha Elizabeth Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Jack Miller, of Putney, London.

Licutenant D.J. Mallen, RN, and Miss A.E. Tarrant The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs John R. Mallen, of Flordon, Norfolk, and Alice, daughter of the Rev John M. Tarrant, of Ross-on-Wye, and Mrs Judith E.T. Tarrant,

Mr J.A.W. Seedh and Miss A.M.E. Baxter The engagement is announced between Justin, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Seedhouse, of Sampford Courtenay, Devon, and Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Baxter, of Lechlade, and Miss J.A. Boyle

The engagement is announced between Christopher, youngest son of the late Colonel H.A.C. Mackenzie, OBE, MC, of Dalmore and of Mrs Daphne Mackennie. The House of Rosskeen. Invergordon, Ross-shire, and Joanna, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Watson, of Kirkton Parm, Auchtertool, by Kirkcaldy, Fife.

Mr J.S.R.C. Ramsay-Clapham and Miss G.M. Tallock
The engagement is announced between Iain, son of Dr David M. Raybould, of London, and Mrs Eila E. Ramsay-Clapham, of Easter Auchtar, Aberfeldy. Perth-shire, and Gillian, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Albert E. Tulloch, of Ecology Extractly Partheline of Fendoch, Fortingall, Perthshire. The marriage will take place in early September.

Captain N.W. Woods and Miss C.J. Lock
The engagement is announced between Captain Nicholas Woodworth, The Royal Engineers, elder son of Mr and Mrs Rodney Woodworth, of Benson, Oxford-shire, and Catherine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Lock, of Withiel, Cornwall.

### **Marriages**

Mr A. Fedoroff and Princess Marina Galitzine The marriage took place on Wednesday, February 26, 1997, at the St Edward Brotherhood Russian Orthodox Church.
Brookwood, Surrey, of Mr Alexander Fedoroff, son of the Very Rev Pather Konstantin, at The Russian Orthodox Convent of The Most Holy Mother of God, Lesna. Provemont, France, and Mrs Fedoroff, to Princess Marina Calitzine, daughter of Prince Dmitri Galitzine and the late Princess Patricia Galitzine, of Chiswick, London, The Very Rev Archimandrit Father Alexis

The bride was given in marriage by her father, Prince Dmitri. Mr C.G. O'Farrell

and Miss N.C. Mayersberg
The marriage took place yesterday, Friday, February 28, at St
James Norland's Church, St James's Gardens, London Wil, of Mr Charles O'Farrell, eldest son of Mr and Mrs George O'Farrell, of Miss Natasha Mayersberg, daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Mayersberg, of Cheisea, London. The bride was given in marriage by her father.

## Church services tomorrow

Third Sunday in Lent ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL: 9 HC: 9.30 Par Euch. O Saviour of the world (Goss). The Procentor: 11 M. Benedictus (Stanford in Gl. Miserere mel Deus (Byrd). Canon Rilson: 12.15 HC: 6.30 E. God be in my head (Davies). ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL ABERDEEN: 8 HC: 10.15 S Euch: 6.30 Ch E. ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 Ch Euch. Stanford in C. Lead me Lord (Wesley), The Dean: 3.15 Ch E. Sumsion in G. Let thy merciful ears O Lord (Weelkes). BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP: 9.15 HC: 11 Ch Euch, Kelly In C. Call to Remembrance Farranti. The Sacrifice of God (greenet, Canon P Oestreichen: 4 Ch E. Second Service (Byrd), Hear my prayer (Purcell). Canon H Burges; (Farranti. The Sacrifice of God (Greene), Canon F Oestrecher: 4 Ch. E. Second Service (Byrd). Hear my prayer (Puncell). Canon H Burgess. BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch. M. Turn ihy face from my sin (Attwood). Canon Hindley: 10.30 Euch. Darke in E. Peccaniem ne quotidie (Morales). Canon Galilier: 4 Ch. E. Geisiliches Leid (Brahms). The Provoss. BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch: 11 M. The Short Service (Gibbons). Turn (hy face from my sins (Anwood). Canon R Williams: 3.30 E. Travers in F. O. Lord my God, why hast inou forsaken mer, Humfrey). BRISTOL CATHEDRAL. College Green: 7.40 M: 8 HC: 10 Ch. Euch. Messe Solennelle (Vierne). How beautiful are the feet (Handel). Canon P. Johnson; 3.30 Ch. E. Collegium Regale (Tavener), Beal quorum via (Stanford). CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 M: 9.30. 11 S. Euch. Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina). Rev Dr M Chandler: 3.15 E. First Service (Morley), Loquebantur variis linguis (Tallis): 6.30 Compline. (Tallis): 6.30 Compline.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch. O quam gloriosum (Victoria). Author of life divine (Aston): 3 E. Short Service (Weelkes), Wash me throughly (Weeley).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8 HC: 9.30 Euch. Canon P Appleton: 11.15 S Euch. Collegium Regale (Howells). Agnus Dei. Canon D Knight: 6 Ch E. Emendemus in Melius (Byrd). The Acting Provost.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Euch. God be in my head (Runer). Ven C Heweston: 11.30 Ch M. Benedicite & Benedictus (Dyson in P. Canon T Dennis: 3.30 Ch E. Faux Bourdon (Andreas): 6.30 Es. Canon T Dennis.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M. |Andreasi: 6.30 ES. Canon'T Dennis. CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M. Benedicite iSumsion in B flat. Thou knowest Lord Purcell. The Archdeacon of Chichester. 11 S Euch. Mass for four voices (Byrd). O most mercful (Bullock), Rev C Everett-Allen: 3.30 E. Remember O Lord (Waimlistey). CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL. Oxford: 8 HC: 10 M & Sermon. Miscrere (Palestrina). Arthdeacon of Oxford: 11.15 S Euch. Missa veni Sonce Spinitus (Pygon). Sicut. cervus (Palestrinal. Canon Webster: 6 E. St John's Service (Tippett). Service (Tippett).

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 10.45 S Euch. Missa Aelerni Christi Munera (Paiestrina). O Lord look down (Battishall). Rev G Marshall: 6 Ch E. Faubourdons Indireas). Remember not Lord (Purcell). Rev R Parsons.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Canon R Coppin: 10 M. Purcell in B flat, Hear my prayer O Lord (Purcell). Canon M Perry; 11.15 HC. Stanford in G. The Precentor. 3:30 E Chichester Service (Walton). Turn thee units me O Lord (Boyce): 6:30 Durham School Evensong.

S Euch, Mass in G minor (Vaughan Williams), The Lameniation (Bairstow), Rev J inge; 3.45 Howells in B minor, Cast me not away from thy presence (Wesley): 6.30 Readings, Reflections & Taize Music, Rev J McFariane. Reflections & Taize Music, Rev J McFariane.
EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC 9.45 S Euch, Jesu
the Very thought of thee (Bairstow). Carton D
Ison: 11.15 M. Response (Tomkins), God so
loved the world (Stainer), Rev G Daxier: 3 E.
Stanford in G. Wash me throughly (Wesley):
6.30 E. Turn thy face from my sins (Attwood),
The Dean. The Dean.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL 8.12.15 HC;

10.15 Euch. Canon N Chaffield: 3 E. Jestis
Service (Mathias), Faire is the Heaven (Harris).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL 8 HC. Canon Dr M
Palmer; 9.45 S Euch. O sacrum convivium
(Messalen), Rev Prof D Marrin; 11.15 M. Te
Deum in G (Sumsion), Call to remembrance
(Farrand), Mrs B steel-Perkins; 6.30 E.
Sianiord in C. Rev Dr I Fisher.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL 8 HC. 10 Euch (FAITANI), MIS B SIECE-PERKINS; 6.30 E, SAANIOTO IN G. Rev Dr I FISHER.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 Euch. Missa O quam gioriosum (Victoria), The Chancellor: 11.30 M, The Lamentation (Bairstow), Benedictus (Eigar in F), Cast me not away (Wesley): 3.30 E, Service on Piainsong Tones (Wills), Turn thee unto me (Boyce). LSICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M: 10.30 Euch, Little Organ Mass in B flat (Haydri), Salvator mundi (Blow). The Bishop of Monmouth: 4 Ch E, Farrant in A munor, 0 bone lesu (Palestrina).

ILCHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Festal Euch, Mass in G minor (Vaughan Williams). To Deum in Fitteland, Ave verum corpus (Eigar). The Precentor: 3.30 Festal E, The Gloucester Service (Howells), Give us the wings (Bullock). LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany: 8 HC: 9.30 Solemn Euch, Dignus est Agnus (Williamson). The Chancellor: 11.15 M, Benedictie in F(Dyson). Turn thy lace from my sins (Artwood), Rev Dr M Semple: 12.30 HC: 3.45 E, Lacrymosa (Requiem) (Mozard). LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC: 10.30 Litany & Euch. Canon N Vincent; 3 Ch E, Canon M Boylling: 4 HC. MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 9 Euch: 10.30 S Euch. Mass for four voices (Byrd). Canon R Preston; 6.30 E Wash me throughly (Wesley). Prelude on Rhosymedre (Vaughan Williams), Canon P Denby. Wesleyi, Prelude on Rhosymedre (Vaughan Williams), Canon P Denby,
NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch; 10.30 S
Euch, Missa in Simplicitate (Langlais), My eyes for beauty pine (Howelis): 6.30 Ch E. Peccantem me quotidie (Morales).
PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC: 9.30 M, Benedicite in F (Dysoni: 10.30 Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd). Canon H Smart: 3.30 E. Wash me throughly (Wesley).
RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch, Canon M Gianville-Smith: 9.30 Par Euch, Missa Bell Amfirir Allera (Lassus), Canon R Head; 1.30 M, Salvator Mundi (Blow), Benedictus (Stanford in C, Hear my prayer (Parcelli; 12.30 Euch, Canon K Mason: 2 Holy Baptism: 5.30 E Cicensing of Rural Dean, Magnificat and Nunc diminits (Blair in B minor), Hear my prayer (Mendelssohn), The Bishop of Ripon, ROCHESTER, CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 M, prayer (Mendelssohn), The Bishop of Ripon. ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M. Lamentarions (Bainstow), Let my prayer come up (Blow); 10.30 S Euch. Let my prayer come up (Blow), Rev P Albop; 3.15 E. Second Service (Gibbons), O Lord in thy wrath (Gibbons); 6.30 Diocesan Cholirs Festival.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Canon J Osborne; 10 Euch. Litany (Tailis), Mass for eight voices (Hassier). Christus factus est (Anerfo), Canon J Davies; 11.30 M. Benedicile in A (Harris). For thou Lord art holy (Alcock). Canon D Siaser: 3 E. Lord let me know mine end (Greene).

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Dorian Mass (Lotti), Ave Verum (Etgar). The Provost of Sheffield; 6.30 E & Sermon, Collegium Regale (Howells), Faire Is the heaven (Harris), Ven S Lowe. 9cutrhwark CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch, Rev H Cunliffe; 11 Ch Euch, Missa Orbis fazzor (Plainsong), Drop drop slow tears (Walton), Nolo mortem peccatoris (Morley), Rev H Cunliffe; 3 Ch E. Collegium Regale (Howells), Rev G Swinton: 6.30 BCP Ch Euch, Salvator mund! (Blow), Rev A Nunn. mund [Blow], Rev A Nunn.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 Lliany: 8 HC:
9.30 Par C, The Provost: 11 M. Stanford in C,
Lord let me know mine end (Greene). The
Chancellor: 3.15 E. Jehovah quam muid sunt
hostes mei (Purcell): 5.45 Compline.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 M: 10 S Euch.
Miserere Mei (Byrd). Mass for Four Voices
(Byrd). The Treasure; 6 E. St Paul's Service
(Howells). The Librarian.

MAKEEISE D. CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: Care. Howells). The Librarian.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon I Knox, 9:15 Par Communion, Drup drop slow tears (F Bridge), The Provost: 11 Solemn Euch. Darke in F. Benedictie (Backson in G). Hear my prayer (Purcell). Canon I Knox: 4 E, Hear my prayer (Purcell). Canon G Nairn-Briegs.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch, The King and the Kingdom (Suffering). Mess Solennelle (Vierne). Very Rev R Lewis: 11.30 M. My soul there is a country (Parry); 3 E. The Gloucester Service (Howells), Gestiliches Lied (Brahms), Preb J Simons. Gfoucester Service (Howells), Geisüliches Lied (Brahms), Preb J Simons.

WESTMINSTER ABBET: 8 HC. 10 M. Benvedictel to A (Harrist), Turn they face from may sins (Attwood). Carnon D Hutt; 11.15 Euch. Missa Trinitatis sanctae (Grier), Call to remembrance (Farrani), A Hymn to God the Father (Humirey), Rev J Goodall: 3 E. Howells In B minor, Geistliches Lied (Brahms), Rev P McGeary; 5.45 Recitat; 6.30 Es. Rev J Goodall: WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Solemn Mass, Mass for five volces (Byrd). Absterge Domine (Tallis); 245 Recitat; 3.30 Solemn V & B. Magnificat terili tone (de Monte). Super flumina Babylonis (Palestrina).

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. (0.30 M. Benedictus (Short Service) (Gibbons), Hear my prayer (Purceil), Rev P Morgan: 11.30 Euch. Missa sant tumi (Croed: Salvator mundi (Tallis); 3.30 E. Third Service (Byrd), Civitas sant! (Byrd), Rev A Walker.

YORK MINSTER: 8. 8.45 HC. 9.30 M: 10 5 Euch. Missa brevis In F. Archbishop of Mechlin-Brussels; 11.30 S Euch. Missa provictorla (Victoria); 4 E. Jehova quam multi sunt hostes met (Purceil), Rev P Ferguson.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL Chwyd: 8 HC. 11 Chuch. Missa Euge Bone (Tye), Very Rev K Goulstone: 3.30 Ch E. Geistliches Lied (Brahms).

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 9.30 Cymun Benddeuld Vr. 16/Ganon: 9.30 Cp Fer Eurich. The Grahms.)
ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid. Yr Is-Ganon: 9.30 Par Euch, The Successor: 11.15 Ch M. Ah holy Jesu [Bach]. The Minor Canon: 6 Ch E. Sumston in G. Wash me thoroughty (Wesley). The Canon: ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon M Mingins; 10 S Euch, Miss Parodia (Trepte). Kyrle (Schubert). Rev B Davey; 11.30 Ch M. The Lamentation of Jeremiah (Balistow), Laboravi in gemitu meo (Caldara): 3.30 Ch E. Round me (alls the night (Orese). ST GEORGES CATHEDRAL. Southwarks 3.30 Ch E. Round me fails the night (Orese).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL. Southwark:
8,10,6 LM; 11.30 Solemn M. Missa Nova
(Gyeantey). Ubi cardias (Durille). Rev G
Bradley: 5 Stations of the Cross.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL. Edinburgh: 8 HC; 10
M HC. Rev A McGillivray. Missa brevis
(Gabrieli): 11.30 Morning, Rev A McGillivray.
Crudifixus (Lott): 6 Lenien Address & Music; 8
Evening HC. The Minister.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.30 Euch, Mass in G minor (Vaughan Williams). Hear my prayer O Lord (Purceil), Rev F MacDonald; 3.30 Ch E, Third service (Byrd), Jehova quam multi sunt hostes mei (Purceil): 6.30 Compline. ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 Morning, Rev R Frazer; 6 Evening (HC), David Thom. ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, The Rochester Mass (Ferguson), Emendenius in melius (Morales), Bishop of Stepney; 3.15 E, Howells in E, Sicut cervus (Palestrina), Canon S Oliver Reports, 13.1, 2. ritowards in E., Stoti Cervis, (Patestinal), Carron S Oliver.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL. Enrismore Gardens. London. SW7: 10.30 Divine Uturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony. Diocesan Bishop Met. Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8,5.15 LM: 10.20 MP. 11 HM. Mass for four voices (Byrd), Rev P Johnstone; 6 E & B. The Short Service (Ayleward), Rev V Stock.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C: 11 C, Rev J Cook: 6.30 Mr D Turner.

THE ASSUMPTION. Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa a 4 (Monteyerdi), inter vestibulum et alture (Morales). Clamabat autem utulier Chananseo (Ceballos).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC: 10 CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC: 10 Children: 1 Par Communion, Rev Dr P Elvy; 6 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Carzon St. WI: 11 Sunday School CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTIAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 HC, Rev S Hood; 6.30 HC, Rev S Hood. FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM. LM; 11 HM.
HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton
Road, SW7: 9 ASB HC. Rev S Downham; 11
Morning, Rev S Millar; 5, 7,30 Informal
Service, Rev N Gumbel.
THE GRATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9,
10, 11 Mass, Missa seati toni (croe), Infelti
ego (By70), 12,30, 4,30, 7 Mass; 3,30 V & B,
Miserer met (Victoria). ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: IVerna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian. Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL City Road, EC2: 11
Morning Service & HC, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist).

SWI: 11 Rev Dr P Graves; 6.30 HC, Rev Dr P
Graves. Graves.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lufberan).
Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev P Schmiege:
2 Swahili HC, Rev A Sebahene; 7 Plainsong
Mass for Lent, Rev P Schmiege.
ST AUGUSTINE. Queen's Gate, SW7: 8-30 HC:
11 Sung HC, Moniteverdi (Blow).
ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield.
EC1: 9 HC; 11 Ch Euch. Mass for five voices
(Byrd), in felunio et fletu (Tallis). The Rector.
6-30 E. Balistow in D. Hymne a la Vierge
(Villette). The Rector.
ST BRIDES. Fleet Street. EC6: 11 Ch M & Euch. (Villette). The Rector.
ST BRIDE'S. Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Ch M & Euch,
Dyson in F. Versa est in luctum (Lobo), Canon J
Oates, 6.30 Ch E. Magnificat/Nunc Dimitts
(Murrill in E), Lord let me know mine end
(Greene), Canon J Oates. (Greene), Canon J Oales.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Ch Euch. Litany (Tallis), Mass for three voices (Byrd). When less sat at meat (Nicolson), Rey M Tavinor.

ST COLUMBAS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SWI: 11 Rev C MacLeod; 0.30 Rev W Calms. W Carms.
ST ETHELDREDA'S. Ely Place: || S Mass.
Missa Ernendemus in melius (Palestrina).
Adoramus Te (Lassus), Ave Verum (Byrd).
ST GEORGES, Hanover Square, WI: 8.30 HC:

11 S Euch: 11 Short Service (Taills), The Rector ST JAMES'S, Gardekhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch (1662), John Paul, Rector, (1662) John Paul, Rector,
ST JAMES'S, Sussex, Gardens, W2: 8 Euch:
10.30 Missa Aedis Christi (Howells), Ah
helpless wretch (Mundy), Rev B Wilson; 6 Ch E,
Huming' In F, Nolo Moriem (Morley).
ST JAMES'S. Piccadilly: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch,
Rev M Oalder; 5.45 EP.
ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family
Communion, Rev D Richards; 6.30 EP &
Praise, Rev D Richards.
ST LIEES: Chaless. ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 10.30 S Euch, Let all mortal flesh. Rev C Kevili-Davies; 12.5 HC; 6.30 Ch E, O Lord in thy wrath, Rev J Davies. ST MARKS, Regents Park Rd, NWI: 8 HC; 9.45 Family Com; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Ad to levay) oculos meos (Palestrina), Rev T Devonshire Jones. traustinia, kev T Devonshire Jones. ST MARGARETS, Westmirster, SWI; 11 S Euch, Canon Donald Gray. ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WCZ-8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev G Lee: 11.30 Visitors. The Vicar; 12.30 HC; 2.45 Chinese, Rev G Lee: 6.30 Eurolice Evening. ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH. Rensington W8: \$1,230 HC; 930 Par Euch, Rev F Gelli; 11,15 Ch M, The Vicar, 630 E. Rev F Gelli; 11,15 ST MARYS. Bourne Street, SW1: 9,10,7 LM; 11 HM, Mass Western Wynde (Taverner), Pr R Bolton; 6 Stations of the Cross. Bolton: 6 Stations of the Cross.

ST MARY-THE-VERGIN, Primruse Hill: 8 HC: 10.30 Par Euch, Mass (Plainsong), The Lamentation (Bairstow), Rev Lvan der Pump: 6 Ch E. Shorn Service (Gibbons), Wash me throughly (Wesley).

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC: 11 Ch Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd), Out of the deep (Tomkins), Rev P Wells, 6.30 Ministry of Healing.

ST MICHAEL'S. Cornhill, EC3: 11 Ch Service, Tallis a 4. Emendemus in melius (Byrd), Ven G Reid. Reid. ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SWI: 8,9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Plainsong Service, Canon P ROSE.
CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA,
HM TOWER of London: 9.15 HC. St John the
Evangelist, White Tower: 11 M & Sermon.
Short Service (Byrd). Remember not Lord our
offences (Purcell), Rev P Abram.
CHAPEL ROYAL. unences (Purceil), Rev P Abram.
CHAPEL ROYAL, St. Janees Palace: 8.30 HC;
11.15 S. Euch, Missa Brevis Maris Dei
(Jackson), Canon G Pedley.
CHAPEL ROYAL Hampton Court Palace: 8.30
HC (1662); 11 Ch Euch, Mass for four voices
(Monteveral), Salvator Mundi (Blow); 3.30 E.
Humphrey in Eminor, Lord let me know mine
end (Greene).
CRICKYPHOD CHAPEL end (Greene). GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audiey Street, WI: 8.15 HC; II S Euch, Missa Brevis (Pajestrina), Salvator mundi (Tallis), Rev S QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: | | 5 Euch, Wood in the Phryglan Mode, The Euch, Wood in the Phrygian Mode, The Chaplein.
GRAY'S INN CHAPEL, 8 South Sq. WCIR: 11.15 S Euch.
THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Flort Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP. The Lamentailors of Jeremiah Rainstow, Benedictus (Thalben Ball) in C. Remember O Lord what is come upon us (Walmisley), The Masier.
GUARD'S CHAPEL, Weltington Barracks, SWI: 11 Ch. HC. Acterna Christe munera (Palestrina), Upi caritas (Durufle), Band of the Grenadier Guard's, Rev L Bryan.
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL.
Greenwich, SEIO: 11 S Euch (BCP), Shaw, Ave Verum (Byrd), Rev C French.

## **Anniversaries**

TODAY BIRTHS: Caroline of Ansbach, consort of King George 11. Ansbach, 1683; Frédéric Chopin, composer, Augustus Pugin, architect of the Gothic revival, London, 1812: Lytton Strachey, writer, London, 1880; Glenn Miller, band leader, Clarinda, Jowa, 1904: David Niven, actor, London, 1910: Robert Lowell, poet, Boston, Massachusetts, 1917,

DEATHS: Thomas Campion, mu sician and poet, London, 1620; George Grossmith, co-author of The Diary of a Nobody, London, 1912; Jackie Coogan, actor, 1984. Today is the Testival of St David. the patron saint of Wales. The 20-month-old son of American aviator Charles Lindbergh was kidnapped from his nursery, 1932. Americans tested a hydrogen

bomb at Bikini Atoll, 1954. Archbishop Makarios ended his exile and returned to Cyprus, 1959. The Soviet ummanned spacecraft Venus 3 touched down on Venus 1966.

TOMORROW BIRTHS: Robert II, King of Scot-land 1371-90, Paisley, 1316; Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the Bodleian Library in Oxford, Exeter, 1545; William Murray, 1st Earl of Mansfield, Lord Chief Justice 1756-88, Perth. 1704: Samuel Houston, soldier, 1st President of the Republic of Texas 1836-38 and 1841-

44, Rockbridge Court, Virginia, 1793; Bedrich Smetana, composer, Hys. Bearen Smeana, composer, Linomyel, Caethoslovakia. 1824; Pope Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli). Rome, 1876; Ivar Kreuger, finan-cier, the "Match King", Kalmar, Sweden 1890- Kurt Weill composer, Dessau, Germany, 1900: Karen Carpenter, singer, New Haven, Connecticut, 1950. DEATHS: Girolamo Frescobaldi. organist and composer, Rome, 1644; John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church, London, 1791; Horace Walpole, novelist and his-

torian, Twickenham, 1797; Heinrich Olbers, astronomer, Bremen, 1840; Hugh Gough, 1st. Viscount Gough, field marshal, Dublin, 1869; John Swart Blackie, writer, Edinburgh, 1895; D.H. Lawrence novelist. Vence. France. 1930; Howard Carter, archaeologist, discoverer or use was Tutankhamun (1922). London, An assassination attempt was.

made on Queen Victoria by Robert Maclean at Windsor, 1882. Captain James Gallagher and his 13-manned US Airforce crew com-pleted the first round-the-world non-stop flight in 94 hours, 1949. The British Commonwealth Trans-Antartic expedition, led by Sir Vivian Fuchs, completed the Rhodesia broke away from the Commonwealth and became a republic under Jan Smith, 1970.

## Latest wills

Sir Robert Camm Booth, of Solihull, West Midlands, left estate valued at £202,093 net. Lady Law, of West Harting, Petersfield, Hampshire, left estate valued at £163,440 net. Frank Forty, retired surgern, of Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £947,687 net. Frederick George Askew, of Great Dunmow, Essex, left estate valued at £1,191,971 net. Daphne Moyra Phoebe Chippen-

dale, of Farnborough, Kent, left estate valued at £1.686.466 net. She left £1.000 each to British Cycling Federation, RNIB, Abbeylield Development Trust and \$1 Giles Parish Church, Farnborough, Kent. Silva Lesley Bewers Carter, of Wickford, Essex, left estate valued at £2,576,917 net. She left £1,000 to Wicklord Corps of the Salvation Army. Clive Ronald Uneworth, of Ashton in Makerfield, Wigan, Lancashire, left estate valued at £2,133,458 net.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

ELY CATHEDRAL: 9.15 HC. Rev D Green: 10.30

## PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

Because Jesus himself has passed through the test of suffering, he is able to help those who are in the midst of their test, Hebrews 2:18

BIRTHS

BROWN - On February 19th, to Yvonne and Barnaby, a son, Yvonne and name Elliot Alexander. CAMPBELL - On 20th Februar

CASEY - On February 21st, to Carol Lawson, wife of Adrian Casey, a daughter, Charlotte Jane Lawson Casey. CREED - On February 24th, to Nicola (nee Richards) and

DEWAR - On February 24th | 1997 at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Sarah (nie Jones) and Mark, a son, James Frederic, a brother for Ellie.

HANSARD - On February 24th, to Joanna and Charles, a daughter, Harriet Louisa. HORN - On February 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Sandra and Ben - twins -Charlotte and Christina, aistern for James and Alexander

BIRTHS in Sydney, Anstralia, at The Boydington, to Emily (née Cooper) and Mark, a daughter, Olivia Rose Ethabeth, Olivia Rose AME - On February 26th, to Allison and Vince, a son, Christian, a brother for Elia. Thank you 51 Mary's, Paddington WEALL-HOLAN - On Feb

MACINTYRE - On February 26th 1997, in Paris, to Kate (1966 Mutr) and Bets, a son, Finnian Alexander, a brother (or Sarnaby. MORTHER - On 23rd February in Nassau, Bahamas, Cariton and Daphno, daughter, Dominique Mar a considerable to Clare

POND - On February 21st a The Portland Hospital to Maureen and Eichard, a son, Ryan Joseph. ROSS MADDAMS - On 22nd Fabruary, to Bellinda and Patrick, a daughter, Cacilia. Many thanks to the team at St Mary's, Paddington. SMARP - On February 27th, to Carey and Joe, a beautiful daughter, Papebe, a sister for Alice and Edward.

WALTENSPIL - On February 24th at The Portland Hospital, to Nazil (née Tabir) and Christoph, a beautiful droghter, Amelia Clora. 24th at The Portland Hospital to Katherine Weall and Christian Nolan, a son, Andreas Michael Nolan. WANGATE - On February 23rd, to Malanie (née Ledger) and John, a son, Jack, a brother for Lucy.

**GOLDEN** ANNIVERSARIES GORDON:WILLIAMSON - On March 1st 1947 at 5t Mark's Church, Marth Andley Street, London WI, by the Rev. Canon E.F. Bonhote M.A. assisted by the Rev. K.H. Thorneycroft M.A. James Gifford, only son of Mr and Mrs J. Edgar Gordon to Margaret Black, youngest daughter of Sir James and Lady Williamson.

DEATHS EOVD - Kenneth Dearly loved husband to Dians, father of Anita, Jane and Francesca and grandfather to Jack Died on 26th February in East Sussex after a long illness courageously borne. All enquiries to AC. Towner Ltd., tel: (01424) 775515.

CARTWRIGHT - Monica (née Davis) W.R.N.S. 1941-46, peacefully at home in Falmouth, Cornwall, on 26th February 1997. Beloved wife of Tony and mother of Pip.

FREER-SMITH - On 27th February 1997, peacefully after a long libers borne with great courses, Angela Beatrice aged 67, beloved with of John and dearly loved mother of David, Peter, Wandy and Christophar. Femetal Sarvice at 32 Marryla Churth, Vernham Dean, m. Andover, Hants., on Fundal Service at 32 Marys Church, Veraham Dean, m. Andover, Hants., on Wednesday 5th March at 11am. Femily flowers only. All dequiries to Halcoow & Some Fundant Directors, 6A Bridge Street, Andover. Hants. SP10 18H, 1e1: (01264) 335265.

MELIER - Miles suddenly on 26th February 1997 aged 51, eldest son of Joan and wonderful father of Bishes, Edward, Erik and Entity. Especially devoted husband of Ann. All his family and friends will treasure his memory. Pussual Service to take place on Thunday 6th March at Easthampstead Park Crematorium 2 pm. Flowers if desired or doustions to British Heart Feundation eto David Greedy Puneral Directors, Dukes Ride, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 6DS, tel: (01344) 773741.

SPHED - Peter (aka Peter The Palnter) suddenly passed away on Monday 24th February aged 54 years. Sadiy missed by all the family and friends. Femoral will take place on Friday 7th March 1997, at Merton and Sutton Censetery at 1.30pm. Family flowers only. Dozations to British Heart Foundation of Fredt. W. Paine, 6 Coombe Lane, Raynes Park, tel: (0181) 946-1974.

STEWART - On February 24th 1997, poncefully in hospital, Nortie Constable Stewart, of Winhorne, Durser, sister of Margot Flowendew, the late Berry Witt and Edward Stewart. A much loved sunt and great-aunt. Private family funeral. THANKSGIVING SERVICES

COOPER - Stuce Lusk. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life and interment of ashes will be held at Crosthwaite Church, Keswick, on Wednesday March 19th at 11.30 am. Lunch at Keswick Hotel affarwants.

IN MEMORIAM -PRIVATE MATTHEWS - Fraderick,
59.19-2.387. Fen king years
without you but never
forgotten and always in our
hearts. Lydia, Lawrence,
Penny and their families.
SHCKLEY Danian One year
but, constantly in our
thoughts and loved an ever. IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE WALLBANK - To honour the memory of much loved PREB Dr. Newell Wallbank, who died at Evensong at St. Barts. The Great, London, on March 3rd last year.

BURTHDAYS MARET You change defect to per-fection and make 48 seem 18. Signed 7. Pag. SERVICES LET the experts help you to know your Accessors. Write Achieve-ments founded 1961, Mortsgate, Cantesbury, CTI 18ATG.

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The galaxy just drive me around but you take me to the universe. Now everybody knows how much I love you. Ob Jose!

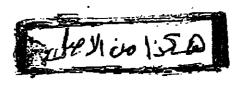
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## OBITUARIES

## OSCAR LEWENSTEIN

Oscar Lewenstein theatrical and film producer, died on February 23 aged 80. He was born in Hackney on January 18, 1917.

ven theatrical revolutions need their entrepreneurs and impresarios. For the revolution which overtook British theatre in the wake of Look Back in Anger in 1956, and slightly later the British film industry also, Oscar Lewenstein was that indispensible figure. Naturally, he functioned

chiefly behind the scenes, and his name was far less well known than most of those whose careers he helped to launch. But his influence was felt far and wide, everywhere from the Royal Court to Stratford East, and there were few, from John Osborne to Joe Orton, Joan Littlewood to Lindsay Anderson, who did not generously acknowledge his mostly benign impact on their careers.

Lewenstein's parents were recent Russian Jewish immigrants when he was born in Hackney just at the onset of the Russian Revolution. His father had a small business in wood and plastics, which took the family to Hove for most of Oscar's childhood, but business failure brought them back to the East End of London when he was 14.

in the circumstances, any young person with any political consciousness at all was likely to grow up strongly leftwing. Lewenstein was from the beginning a great reader, formed his Marxist view of the world at an early age, and never significantly deviated from it subsequently, even when he became rich and

After leaving school he had various jobs, but the first of them in which he was happy was at the Workers' Bookshop, which distributed Left Book Club publications, in 1936. Through it he first made contact with notable Commu-nist writers and intellectuals, which was to stand him in

good stead later on. In 1938 he married Clare, a co-worker for the cause, but the war came before he could

Jack Wilson, British

Ohmpie oarsman, died

on February 16 aged 82.

He was home on

September 17, 1914.

JACK WILSON's sideboard

must have groaned under the

weight of the trophies he

gained during his short but

spectacular rowing career, but

it is perhaps for the gold

medal he won for Britain in

the 1948 Olympic Games that

he will be best remembered.

He was also in three victorious

Cambridge crews in the Univ-

Remarkably, it was after

having not touched an oar for

ten years that he rowed with

his friend, W. G. R.M. "Ran"

Laurie (father of Hugh Laurie

the comedian, himself a Cam-

bridge rowing Blue), to victory

in the Olympic coxless pairs.

Taking leave from the political service in Sudan, Wilson and

Laurie entered the Henley

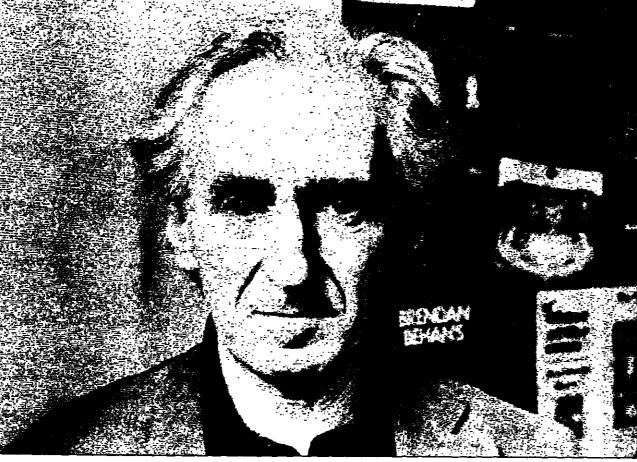
Royal Regatta in 1948. Despite

having had only three months

training, the pair won the Goblets so convincingly that

they were invited to represent

ersity Boat Race, 1934-36.



make any sensible decision about what he wanted to be. His marriage did not survive the war, but his experience in the Army, undertaking the education of illiterate recruits, had a strong formative effect. His realisation that he was a born organiser and could put his talents and his education (largely self-acquired) to use on behalf of the causes he Mawson. believed in derived from this During Lewenstein's time

As soon as he was demobbed he began to put his notions into practice by taking managerial job with the Unity Theatre, a famous London political theatre club of the time (he wanted to edit their magazine, but was not judged to have sufficient experience). His first connection with the Unity came through a prewar friend, Ted Willis, who had in the interim begun to write plays and was already on his way to becoming the creator of Dixon of Dock Green and many realist scripts for early television.

The Unity brought Lewenstein for the first time into close contact with the theatrical milieu in which the rest of his life was to be spent, and gave him an excellent understanding of how the theatre and theatrical people functioned. He also met through the theatre his second wife, an artist-potter called Eileen

s general manager at the Unity it set up a professional company in addition to its less formal activities, and so he became, in effect, an impresario for the first time, if at a very humble level. In 1952 he was hired as General Manager of the Royal Court Theatre, at that time notable for little else than its historical connection with the Barker-Vedrenne management and the early productions of George Bernard Shaw.

However, Lewenstein had other ideas. He saw a bright future for a writers theatre which would be run, as so lew

London theatres were at that time, on repertory lines and establish a consistent policy. In 1956, along with the poet-playwright Ronald Duncan and the actor-director George Devine, he set up the English Stage Company at the Royal Court to be exactly that. The first couple of productions received respectful notices, but the third really took off. It was John Osborne's Look Back in

This success, critical and commercial, almost singlehandedly set off the so-called New Drama in Britain, and the English Stage Company at the Royal Court continued to be the movement's flagship. Lewenstein's connection with the theatre was continuous. He was artistic director there from 1972 to 1975, co-produced many of its shows and masterminded its West End transfers, and was chairman of the company, member of the council and general inspirer (or, as some saw it, interferer) for many years.

But his interests did not limit themselves to the one company or theatre. He was an old friend of Joan Littlewood, and he helped her to put on the first British production of a Brecht play (Mother Courage) and provided the managerial input for the transfer of several of her

most famous Theatre

Workshop productions, in-cluding A Taste of Honey, The

Hostage and Make Me An

Offer, to lucrative West End

All three of those plays, incidentally, were transferred simultaneously in 1959 - no one could accuse Lewenstein of lacking boldness if he believed in something. Of course he had his share of flops, but hardly ever did he involve himself in any enterprise which was totally lacking in quality. He had learnt early that lofty educational intentions in the theatre were not enough, and his combination of intellectual stamina with an acute sense of what

would work and what would not brought him many successes such as Billy Liar, Loot and What the Butler Saw, in which serious ideas were presented in an honorably commercial way. Lewenstein's theatrical con-

nections with directors such as Tony Richardson, Lindsay Anderson and Peter Brook were inevitably, sooner or later, going to get him involved with the cinema too. He began in a modest way as a sort of uncredited assistant producer on A Taste of Honey and The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner, both directed by Tony Richardson, but his official debut as associate producer hit gold, in the shape of Tom Jones. He went on to produce such

memorably successful films as The Girl with Green Eyes and The Knack, as well as some really bizarre projects which probably no other producer would have touched, like Tony Richardson's filming of the Genet script Mademoiselle; his final production was Rita, Sue and Bob Too in 1987, some years after he had effectively retired from active involvement in theatrical production and settled, inevitably, to writing his memoirs, Kicking Against the Pricks, which appeared in 1994.

În private, Lewenstein was noted for his cool and his culture. He was an enthusiastic collector of pictures and books, and always turned out to have far-ranging knowledge of the most obscure and unlikely subjects, which he was delighted to share: the teacher in him died hard. Professionally he could sometimes be difficult, and would refuse for as long as possible to admit that he might be wrong in anything. On the other hand. he could reasonably point out that he very seldom was, and if from time to time he sulked under the lash of criticism, he would always accept just stric-tures eventually. He was ever an idealist first, a businessman after - though sometimes by quite a short head. He helped to change the face of 20th-century British drama.

His first marriage was dissolved in 1947. He is survived by his second wife, Eileen, and two sons.

## WILLIAM GEAR



William Gear, artist, died on February 27 aged 81. He was born on August 2. 1915.

HAD the tides of international art and taste shifted just a little in the late 1940s, William Gear might have been one of Britain's most famous artists. As it is, he remains one of those figures whose work is rediscovered from time to time by art historians and connoisseurs, and prized for its adventure and originality.

Gear's paintings of the 1950s, characterised by what might be called intuitive abstraction, were at the forefront of European and international art of the time; they effectively combine a Scottish flair for handling strong colour and a British artistic pragmatism. But the powerfully backed surge of American Abstract Expressionism, with its unstructured and uninhibited mark-making on a huge scale, soon submerged the comparatively restrained contemporary European abstract art of the time, almost banishing it from the public eye, and causing it to be dismissed as

too formal and tasteful. With hindsight, however Gear's informal and experimental studies and gouaches on paper of around 1949, with their hazy coalescence of brush marks, themselves look like blueprints for Abstract Expressionism of the New York School. Indeed, Gear's work was shown alongside Jackson Pollock's at the Betty Parsons Gallery in New York in 1949. But Gear always maintained more of an overt sense of nature in his work.

Gear was sufficiently resilient to remain unconfined by history and changing taste, and he continued to work undaunted during many years of subsequent disregard by most of the art world. His reward was to see his work being rediscovered, hung in retrospectives and purchased. by museums all over the world in the 1980s and 1990s

William Gear was born in the fishing village of Methil. Fifeshire; a dour location between stormy seas and pitheads. Intent from his early teens on becoming an artist. from 1932 to 1936 he attended Edinburgh Art School, with its traditional Paris art affiliations, and found there a more stimulating environment than London would have offered at the time. From 1936 to 1937 he was at Edinburgh University, the first British university to have a chair of art history, and from 1937 to 1938 a travelling scholarship took him to Paris. where he attended Fernand Léger's academy. He returned to attend Moray House Training College from 1938 to 1939, and exhibited his work for the

first time at the Royal Scottish

Academy and Society of Scottish Artists.

Gear saw war service from 1939 to 1946 with the Royal Corps of Signals in the Middle East (where he managed to have exhibitions of his works on paper in Jerusalem. Tel Aviv, and Cairo), in Italy (shows in Siena and Florence). and in Germany, where he subsequently worked as a staff officer for the Monuments. Fine Arts, and Archives branch of the Control Cornmission from 1946 to 1947; he set up a studio in a castle in Celle, and participated in the rebuilding of German cultural life.

Demobbed in 1947, Gear made straight for Paris, where he became associated with the Ecole de Paris and with other groups of abstract painters. He had his first one-man show at a commercial gallery in Paris in 1948, and also his first one-man show in London in the same year at Gimpel Fils.

Gear returned to Britain in 1950, after showing in some important group exhibitions in Europe; with a brief stay in Buckinghamshire, he settled in a small village in Kent near Canterbury. At The Festival of Britain in 1951, an abstract by Gear (printed upside down in the catalogue - the smart remark at the time was that it did not matter) won a major purchase prize of £500: this led to questions in Parliament.

Exhibitions in Britain and in Europe kept him busy: and from 1958 to 1964 he became curator of the Towner Art Gallery in Eastbourne. From 1964 to 1975 he was head of the department of Fine Art at Birmingham College of Art (later Birmingham Polytech-

Gear missed the expansion of promotion and public interest which characterised the visual arts in Britain in the 1960s, but the fast developing areas of art history and exhibition-making eventually caught up with him, as Europe rediscovered its own postwar art in the shadow of American domination.

But though retrospectives and worldwide acquisition of his works followed, London lagged behind: the Royal Academy's 1987 exhibition of the "modern movement". British Art In The 20th Century. ignored him completely in its assessment of the 1950s. It was left to a 1989 Scottish exhibition, Scottish Art 1900-1990, to restore Gear to his rightful place as one of the original talents of British 20th-century

William Gear married, in 1949, Charlotte Chertock, who died in 1988; there are two sons of the marriage.

An exhibition of Gear's

work can be seen at the Redfern Gallery, London Wl. until March 26.

## **JACK WILSON**



Jack Hyrne Tucker Wilson

Great Britain at the first nostwar Olympic Games, in Britain, later that year. Rowing on their favourite course at Henley. "the Desert Rais" as they were known, fought off a late challenge from the Swiss brothers, Hans and Josef Kalt, beating them by 2.8 seconds to take gold.

was educated at Shrewsbury School and Pembroke College. Cambridge, where he read engineering. At Shrewsbury he was introduced to rowing and first competed at Henley in 1932 when he rowed for the Shrewsuury crew, winning the Ladies' Plate. This was a particularly impressive win since the event was open to both school and university college crews, and naturally the latter tended to dominate.

Two years later Wilson gained his Blue at Cambridge. rowing in three consecutive victorious Boat Race crews. In the first year. 1934, the Cambridge eight set a record time. Wilson was made president of the Cambridge University lets in Boat Club in 1935. This was Laurie.



Wilson, stroke, and Laurie, winning the Olympic Gold Medal in the coxless pairs at Henley, 1948 the golden era of Pembroke rowing; Wilson won the Stewards' Cup twice and the Grand Challenge Cup once, for his Wilson joined the Sudan Political Service in 1936 but

returned to Henley on leave in

1938 to win the Stewards for

Leander, and the Silver Gob-

lets in parmership with Ran

LEGAL NOTICES

While serving as District Commissioner in the Upper Nile Province in 1942, he incurred the displeasure of a local witch doctor, at whose instigation an aged local woman stabled Wilson with an assegar. He was carried by bearers on his bed for 24 hours. and by boat down the Nile for a further 24 hours, before reaching hospital at Malakal.

TRUSTEE ACTS

from where he was flown to Khartoum. Wilson was Deputy Gover-

nor of the Bahr El Ghazal Province when independence came to Sudan in 1954. He returned to Britain to join the steel company Stewart and Hoyds where he was made general manager of its West Midlands Tubes Division. He rented in 1970.

I ven after he had stopped competitive rowing, it was never far from his heart. In 1951 he coached the winning Fembroke College crew in the Ladies' Plate. He was elected

Regatta in 1953, and almost never missed the annual regatta where he was actively involved until last year with such duties as timekeeping. An active member of his

community. Wilson was a magistrate and served on the committee of the League of Friends of Budleigh Salterton Hospital.

He is survived by his wife, Anne, whom he married in Mombasa in 1943 after she managed to get a posting there with the Wrens, and by their

## PERSONAL COLUMN

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John William Leonard Decaused Particiant to the Trustee Act 1925 NUTICE is given that anyone having a chaim against or an instance in the sesses of the above named late of Cherry Tree Lane Chencester Gloricestershire who died on the 21st February 1996 is required to send particular thereof to the foliation, Beestra Bretherton Price Egodic of 123 Fromenade. Cheluspham. Uponessershire inference VA. Chelishham.
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Since the last edition of three klord, he says,

### **NEWSPAPERS ATTACKED** ON MORAL ISSUE

By Clifford Langley Religious Affairs Correspondent

Flements in the churches, the mass media, and contemporary politics are rebuked for contributing to the prevailing moral chaos in society in the preface to Crockford's Clerical Directory, published today.

As is the custom, the preface is unsigned and the identity of its author a closely kept secret, but he is believed to be an elderly elergyman of university background and conservative predilections

there has been evidence of a growing concernabout aspects of the so-called permissive society, in particular the commercial exploitation of sex. It cannot be overlooked that the moral crisis is within the church itself as well as in the nation at large (the preface says). Standards of sexual behaviour which have been an accepted part of Christian teaching since New Testament times are now openly called in question by some of the clergy, not only in books but on radio and television.

where millions of viewers and listeners are

given the impression that the church has now

abundaned its moral standards . . . There has

## ON THIS DAY

March I, 1973

The anonymous author of the Crocklard preface was customarily expected to make forthright criticisms of any trends within the Church of England of which he disapproved.

been allowed to grow up a one-sided and sentimental understanding of love combined with a belief that all sexual restraint is

potentially harmful. The principal responsibility for correcting this situation rested with the bishops. They should insist on adequate moral teaching in the colleges. They should be more searching in their examinations of candidates for ordination, and more firm and frequent in calling their clergy to a disciplined life. The Archbishop of Canterbury should write an appropriate book on the chaos in morals.

Politicians could not escape a share of the

blame. No sooner did a television discussion turn to a party issue than reason flew out of the window. The Labour Party's manneuvring on the EEC was particularly unedifying

in what claimed to be a party of conscience.

For the mass media, the national press and television in particular, the writer reserves his severest censure. The newspaper proprietors have the greatest potential influence of any group of people in the whole country. It is highly improbable that, as some of them assert, they give no direction to the papers which they own. If, indeed, they did not do so they are guilty of the most appalling misuse of power. Responsibility must also rest heavily on those who have laid down the principles of modern journalism. The reader can only judge on those principles by their effects, and the dominant effect is sensationalism, the search for the good story without too much repard for the facts.

The excuse of giving the public what it wants is a shallow one, the subordination of truth to commercialism. The culprits here are not, we believe, the recorders but the editors. Our own experience of newspaper reporters and that of others to whom we have talked is that they are courteous and helpful. The damage is done when their material is handled by those who make up the paper.

## NEWS

### Major warns of election defeat

■ John Major acknowledged the prospect of general election defeat last night in a high-risk gamble intended to shock former Tory voters into facing up to the alleged dangers of a Labour government.

The Prime Minister said that Britain could be just weeks away from a "midsummer nightmare", predicting that a victorious Labour would use a Budget soon after the election to put up taxes and interest rates and blame the Tories ...... Page 1

## Natwest faces £50m loss over dealings

■ Natwest, the largest high street clearing bank, put aside £50 million to cover losses in the highly volatile derivatives market. The announcement came after the stock market closed...Page 1

### In from the cold

John Le Carté met his Karla when the author who brought the spies in from the cold met the man who ran Moscow Centre ...... Page 1

### Game of chicken

Vets with nets will patrol Twickenham to catch any of the live cockerels that are traditionally released by French fans... Page i Worldbeater at 95

### Everitt Hosack made a world record two-metre long jump on his

95th birthday... ... Page 3 **Hostile community** Villagers raised £200,000 in three

days to buy a house instead of letting a charity use it for preparing former drug addicts and alcoholics for life back in the Road to Hollywood

### A 21-year-old self-taught film director from Brighton has been

signed by a Hollywood studio to shoot his own production.. Page 6

## Video wars resume

Video game wars resume in high streets and homes after a hill lasting several years ..... Page 9 Wrong bones

Bones thought to be of St David. the patron saint of Wales, have been carbon-dated and found to be the wrong age by at least 400 years. The Welsh celebrate St David's Day today.....Page 15

Clinton plea President Clinton has been making late-night calls to fellow Democrats urging them not to betray ....Page 18

### Young hopeful

A girl of twelve who won a contest to sing on Broadway intends to sue the show for \$50 million (£31 million) after being dumped...Page 18

## Bush's son rises

Speculation grows that George Bush, the Governor of Texas, can follow his father's trail to the presidency ...

## Stonehenge 'built by ancient Bretons'

■ England's greatest monument, Stonehenge, may have been built by the French. Aubrey Burl. an expert on prehistoric stone circles, says the stones were manhandled into position on Salisbury Plain by Gallic engineers .... .. Page 3

## NATURE NOTES Skunk (McAlpinus memoirus) Lethal marauder which can cause a dreadful stink Polecat (Chingfordus strunglerus) Semi-housetrained, it emerges from hibernation to create mayhem in the coop.

### OPINION

Beyond spin: If the Prime Minister wants the country to wake up, he has to do so himself - and stay in that ..Page 25 Favourite son: For the mo-

ment, at least, George Bush junior is the Great Right "Page 25 Primakov's profession: "You see, Mir Le Carrè, i am already an old fan." .... Page 25

## OBITUARIES

and film producer; William Gear, painter; Jack Wilson, Olympic oarsman .... Page 27

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## COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The film version of Arthur Miller's play, The Crucible, which used the saga of the Salem witches as a weapon against McCarthyism, finds new forms of Mc-Carthyism in political correctness and revived-memory syndrome .. Tim Congdon: The longer Europe's governments postpone action to halt the growth of debt caused by state pensions, the worse their eventu-

LETTERS

ai dilemma.

from DM2.7500 to DM27494.

## BUSINESS

Amicable battle: Prudential, Abbey National and Australia Mutual Provident (AMP) have placed formal bids, each believed to be worth more than £2 billion, for Scottish .... Page 29 £200 m goal: A valuation of almost £200 million has been

put on Newcastle United football dub..... Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 30.9 points to close at 4308.3. Sterling's tradeweighted index rose from 98.2 to 98.3 after a rise from \$1.6275 to \$1.6290 but a fall

## CAR 97

### SPORT Rugby union: The winner of Tartan army: Adventures England v France at Twickin Motion Pictures takes enham will have one hand on the twee out of La Sylphide

ship trophy..... ......Page 56 Football: Steve Coppeli has returned as caretaker manager of Crystal Palace until the end of the season ..... Page 56 Golf: Domingo Hospital, of

the Five Nations' champion-

Spain, was leading the Dubai Desert Classic by two strokes at the end of the second

Any colour scheme you want

SECTION

Top gear: Richard Wilson modeis ... .. Page 26 Juliette Binoche: flirting with disaster ...... Page 10 Food & Drink. Pages 41-46

## Weekend

Party animal: Lord McAlpine...... Pages 1, 2



.....Pages 7, 8 Home life ... \_\_\_\_ Page !!

New star ..... Pages 6 & 7 We recommend .. Page 11



Inside Track. Pages 4 & 5 ... Pages 9-14 What's on..... Pages 15-19 TV & Radio ... Pages 23-51

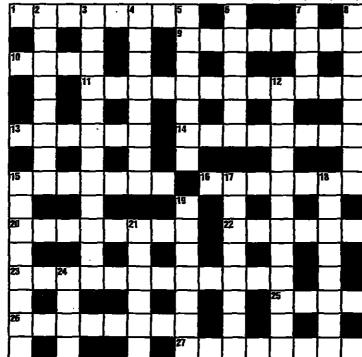
BISINESS

· Water

201

### THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,416

A E20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.



## I Some bet he's dawdling in the

- 9 Recognisable as Graymalkin, for
- 10 Successful stroke put business ahead (4).

example (8).

- 11 They give you a better view till close of play (5,7).
- 13 The man to compose a song of loyalty (6).
- 14 One who makes restitution of surplus gold to king (8).
- 15 Mildly cursing repair needed in
- hose (7). 16 Charge levied on importers of
- table wine (7). 20 Source of beef that can give us
- energy (8). 22 Some find the paper boring (6).
- 23 One who might give an eye-tooth
- to be a music-maker (5-7). 25 Spots Pole Star outside (4).
- 26 Trampled on English bulrush, by the sound of it (8).
- 27 Decision to be transported away from ere, possibly (8).

Solution to Puzzle No 20.410

HOUSEDECOMMONS SUOSHUUS UNTELLIGENTSUA

2 Arab in rising generation show

3 Ill-feeling that persists, however

4 US drummer in death drama (8).

5 It involves a fellow and female

6 Opening of shopping arcades

8 Keep out of harm's way, parking

12 All the goods required for dwin-

dling hosiery business (5-2-5).

15 Disgraceful accommodation a

17 Dark stone in ring is in bad shape

18 It's like Frank, for example, to get

19 Religious - sounding formulas to

up and run like mad (8).

produce fool's gold (7). 21 Stamp a Scots solicitor may need

the ball (4).

for his correspondence (6).

24 Sort of rags Cinderella wore to

Solution to Puzzle No 20,415

supplying underwear (6).

7 Neck getting a smack (4).

boxer may live in (8).

ing undue self-regard (8).

unjustified (12).

with a passion (7).

on top of store (S).

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HOURS OF DARKNESS Sun sets: 541 pm Sunnisøs: 6.46 æm

London 5.41 pm to 6.44 am Bristol 5.51 pm to 6.53 am Edinburgh 5.47 pm to 7.02 s 5.51 pm to 6.53 am urgh 5.47 pm to 7.02 am

TOMORROW Sun sets: 5.43 pm Moon sets 10,33 am Moon rises 1.16 am Last quarter today London 5 43 pm to 6.42 am Bristol 5 52 pm to 6 51 am Edinburgh 5 49 pm to 6 59 am Manchester 5 49 pm to 6 52 an

Jersey Kintoss Leeds Lerwick Leuches

HIGH TIDES: P824123805014261366428738911087438487255388

HIGHEST & LOWEST Highost day temp: Guernsey, 15C ast day max: Avernore. Highland, 5C, lest rainfall: Tulloch Bridge, Highland, lest sureinine: Aberdeen, 8.9h;

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

## FORECAST light rain in the evening. Wind south to southwest, fresh to strong, becoming strong to gale. Max 10C (50F). Lake Dist, Isle of Man, Borders: dry start but outbreaks of rain by early afternoon. Winds south to southwest, the other particular to cale participate one

☐ General: England and Wales will start dry but during the afternoon there will be outbreaks of rain in Cumbria. By evening the rain will have moved southeast to reach North Wales and other northwe

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a very wet day, although eastern parts of Scotland will start dry. It will be very windy with gale or even severe gale force southwest winds.

El London, S.E., Cent S., E. England, E. Anglia, E. Mildiands, Channel Isles: hazy sunshine at first. Winds moderate becoming fresh to strong, south to southwest. Max 12C (54F). ☐ W Midlands, S W, Cent N England, S Wales: bright spells at first: cloud thickening er. Wind south to southwest, fresh becoming strong to near gale, Max 11C (52F).

Wind South to Sou strong to gale, becoming gale or even severe gale. Max 8C (46F). ☐ Outlook: rain cleaning southeast

strong to gale, perhaps severe gale later. Max 9C (48F).

later. Max 9C (48F).

Edinburgh & Dundee, S W, N W Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, N Ireland: cloudy with persistent rain; heavy in places. Wind strong to gale, becoming gale or severe gale, south to southern. M. E. Scotland. Oct.

☐ Aberdeen, N E Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: mostly dry at first but

rain arriving during morning, heavy in

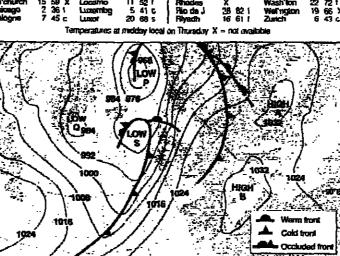
52 b

50 b

□ N Wales, N W, N E England: mostly dry at first, then outbreaks of tomorrow, then showers; less windy. AROUND BRITAIN

C 12 11 9 9 11 12 9 10 11 12 11 11 45 48 48 52 48 50 52 52 45 52 46 9,17 0,48 0,19 0,34 0,01 0.25 1.1 22 0.03 X 0.77 50 52 0.77 0.8 -2.3 -0.1 0.01 2.9 -50 sh 50 c 50 r 52 c 52 c 50 du 50 r 54 b 0.14 0 34 1.5 06 001

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Changes to the chart from noon; low S will move northeast and become absorbed by low P which will change little; low O will be clow moving; highs A and B will lose their identified

## Wind speed (mph) & direction

and replaces it with pre-

sent-day urban wit for

Highland Fling, Matthew

Modern heroes: Classical

music lovers know their

early music, but often at

the expense of contempo-

rary works. Two London

concerts addressed the

Semi-conscious: A nation

which already has 2,500

museums has found room

for one more...... Page 23

Page 22

.... Page 22

Bourne's

imbalance.

revision.

## TORONTO OR NEW YORK

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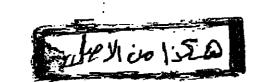
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**INSIDE SECTION TODAY** 

M onday Tuesday U Wednesday Thursday\_

Friday

**WORKING WEEK** 

Entrepreneurs keeping clients in the picture PAGE 31



**BUSINESS** 

Graham Searjeant says prepare for Labour squalls **PAGE 33** 



SPORT -

Grayson aiming to put the squeeze on France **PAGES 50-56** 

THE HIDDEN **ASSETS AT** JP MORGAN **PAGE** 

31

**BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook** 

SATURDAY MARCH 1 1997

## Fund managers criticised over scandals

THE fund management industry was condemned by one of its senior members yesterday for allowing "scandal after scandal".

Geoff Lindey, former chairman of the investment committee of the National Association of Pension Funds, criticised the industry's inability to root out "sleaze".

Mr Lindey, who was a member of the Greenbury committee on corporate governance, told delegates at the NAPF annual conference in East-

Three-way

battle

for £2bn

ScotAm

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

wanted to use Scottish Amica-

ble "as a platform to expand

into Europe". He said that if AMP won the bidding war,

Scopish Amicable would remain separate from, but

would complement, AMPs

present UK company, Pearl.

Pearl has a direct sales force

while Scottish Amicable sells

its products through indepen-

Mr Schwartz added: "Scot-

tish Amicable has a small

international division and we

would be very keen to build

An industry source said yesterday: "AMP may have

been last to join the race, but it

is running very hard and has

put in a serious offer." Abbey National is believed to have

improved its initial offer.

which it described as "a mini-

mum". Prudential confirmed

it was a bidder, but declined to

Scottish Amicable originally

put forward demutualisation

plans that relied on "substan-

tial financial backing" from

Swiss Re, the reinsurance

group, and its affiliate

asked to sign a confidentiality

agreement that allowed them

to look at Scottish Amicable's financial information, but

barred them from making a

The outcome of discussions

will be known by mid-March,

and the board will recom-mend one offer to the 1.1 million with-profit policyhold-

ers who own the company by

the end of March in a circular.

The board has detailed 14

criteria by which it will judge

bids. A special general meet-

ing will be held to approve the

Sandy Stewart, chairman of

Scottish Amicable, said: "We

can now move on to the next

phase with every expectation

of delivering maximum value to policyholders." SBC War-

burg is advising Scottish Ami-

cable. Jock Birney, who heads

the corporate finance division.

said short and long-term bene-

fits to policyholders would be

comment further.

Securitas Capital.

hostile bid.

transaction.

"a priority".

Potential bidders

that up.'

PRUDENTIAL, Abbey National and Australia Mutual

Provident (AMP) have placed formal bids, each believed to

be worth more than £2 billion,

for Scottish Amicable, the

The announcement of the

bids, made vesterday, follows

weeks of speculation and sig-nals the determination of lead-

INC DIAVERS IN the Danking and

insurance sectors to expand

through acquisition, even at a

Scottish Amicable had origi-

nally planned to demutualise

this spring before Abbey National tabled its first offer.

Although AMP's interest in

Scottish Amicable had been widely documented, it was not

until yesterday that the Austra-

lian insurer confirmed it was

making a formal bid. NatWest

has already dropped out say-

NatWest, Fortis, Barclays

and GE Capital are known to

be interested in buying a UK

life company, and NPI, Scot-

tish Widows, Friends Provi-

dent and a number of other

mutual insurers are likely tar-

gets for other disappointed

Jon Schwartz, AMP group development director, said he

BUSINESS

TODAY

FTSE 100 4308.3 (-30.9)
Yield 3.68%
FTSE All share 2107.86 (-11.88)
Nikel 18557.00 (-464.56)
New York:

Dow Jones ....... 6919.30 (-5.77)\* S&P Composite 794.80 (-0.27)\*

CIS PACE

Federal Funds 97-2 (97-2)

Long Board 6,80% (8,81%)

CONDON MONEY

STOCK ROADES

ing the price was "too high".

mutual life insurer.

high price.

worth £1.4 billion.

bourne: "The behaviour of some JP Morgan Investment Manage-individuals, and I am not referring to ment, was discussing the role of any one individual, has been disgraceful. Scandal after scandal is hardly the basis for the creation of an atmosphere of trust."

The industry has been tarnished by episodes such as the Peter Young affair, where a Morgan Grenfell fund manager diverted funds into highly speculative, unquoted stocks.

Recently, Nicola Horlick's departure from the same firm thrust the industry's high salaries into the spotlight. Mr Lindey, who works for

pension funds as voting shareholders and regulators of a company's behaviour. He said voting powers would often have to be delegated to fund managers. Because of this responsi-bility, he said, they had to be like "Caesar's wife" — absolutely above suspicion in their actions.

But he claimed: "Recent events have caused some clients and the public at large to believe that we are more like Caesar's pigs. If we as an industry cannot root sleaze out of our

business, how can we have any credibility when we discuss much less egregious matters with the management of the companies in which we invest on behalf of our clients?" Mr Lindey also said he thought Greenbury requirements on the disclosure of directors' share options were excessive: "It focuses attention on gains which are of no legitimate interest."

Paying non-executive directors in shares instead of cash was a bad idea, he added, since options give a mance: "That is not what the general-ity of shareholders experience and it is not what non-executive directors

should experience either." He also said that there is a danger that shareholder activism could worsen situations if it took the form of "high-profile name-calling and rent-acamera campaigning". He said: "The tension which is cause by high-profile posturing is usually counter-productive and anything but creative.

NatWest £50 million loss, page 1 Tempus, page 32

## **Avis float** value set to

By Fraser Nelson

AVIS EUROPE, the Continent's largest car hire agency, will be valued at up to £734 million when it joins the stock market on April 3.

The company, which re-news its 145,000 pan-European car fleet each year, will raise £238 million via global institutional investors. It has established a Founders' Club for shareholders who keep a stake worth more than £1,000 for longer than three months. Members will be entitled to free car rental vouchers and will be invited to join Avis Express, which gives a streamlined service.

Avis expects pre-tax profits of £56.8 million (£26.1 million) in the year to February 28 after combating its £380 million debt pile. It is forecasting earnings of 8.8p per share, and will pay a maiden dividend of will be placed between 108p and 126p, giving a company value of between £629 million and £734 million.

The flotation will be Avis Europe's second appearance on the London Stock Exchange. The current management led a £900 million buyback eight years ago. The company borrowed £1 billion to go private and has been paying this off ever since.

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saving strategies BUILDING SOCIETIES

> Windfall payouts, who gets what and when

**WEEKEND** 

Anne Ashworth

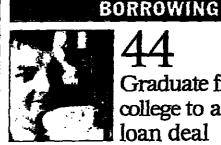
Scottish Amicable

on the race for

### HOME BUYING

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## Sir Terence Harrison joins Newcastle as non-executive chairman of the holding company Newcastle United to join market with £200m tag

By Alasdair Murray

NEWCASTLE UNITED is to join the stock market in April in a float that will value the club at almost £200 million. Sir John Hall, who is expect-

ed to remain club chairman. will retain a 57 per cent stake in the company worth 1110 million after flotation. Sir Terence Harrison, chairman of Alfred McAlpine, is chairman of the dub's holding company.

Denis Cassidy, chairman of Liberty, and John Mayo, finance director of Zeneca, have been appointed non-executive directors. The club added that Anne Ashworth, page 35 | Kenny Daglish, the new man-

ager, would be eligible for share options, although details of his potential reward have yet to be finalised.

The offer is expected to raise £47 million, which the club said would be used to pay off Il million in deht and to build up training and youth development facilities. Newcastle said it would ensure that 10 per cent of the shares are available to the public rather

than to institutions. Newcastle made an operating loss of £24 million last year because of transfer fee costs of almost 230 million. Shares will be offered at between 120p and 135p, with trading expected to commence on April 2.

Meanwhile, local rivals Sunderland produced a halfyear profit of £1 million (£1.6 million loss). Turnover doubled to £5.2 million. The club added that it had sold the freehold of its Roker Park stadium for £1.3 million. Sunderland is moving to a new 42,000-seat stadium. It is scheduled to be completed by the end of this season.

Shares in the company closed unchanged at 73212p. They floated at SSSp.

## Post-election warning for Labour By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LABOUR will face economic "minefields" if elected to government, a leading business economist said yesterday forecasting a post-election squeeze to dampen down inflationary pressures. A new Labour government, if elected,

would be likely to discover that managing the economy, despite its improve-ments, is still a "very challenging proposition".

The warning came from Andrew Sentance, chairman of the Society of Business Economists, and economic forecasting director at the London Business School. Dr Semance is also a former Treasury "wise man" and ex-economics head of the Confederation of British

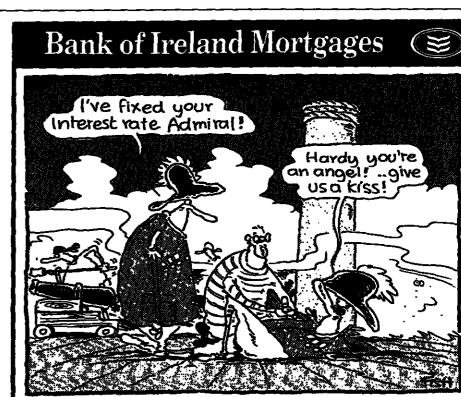
Industry. He said that in its first 12 to 18 months Labour would be likely to face four significant challenges - higher interest rates after the election, resisting upward pressure on government spending, and key decisions on both economic and monetary union, and on a minimum

He said: To navigate all these minefields successfully, a future Labour government will need both a great deal of skill and some good fortune.

While Britain's economy was now a great deal more "benign" than when Labour last came to power in 1974, business economists remained sceptical about Labour's ability to restore the party's reputation for economic management.

The introduction of a minimum wage could deliver an inflationary shock. Dr Sentance said, while EMU could prove as politically divisive for Labour as it has been for the Conservatives. Labour would find it difficult to keep

tight control over public spending, espe-cially with public sector employees pressing for wage rises after several years of restraint while on a single currency Britain risked "serious misalignment" because of the recent fluctuation of the pound making it impossible to establish what a "sustainable" exchange rate against the euro might be.



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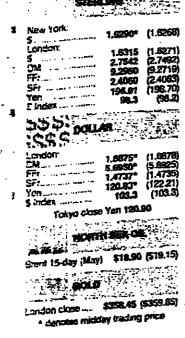
value. Our rate of 6.79% (APR 7.0%) is fixed until March

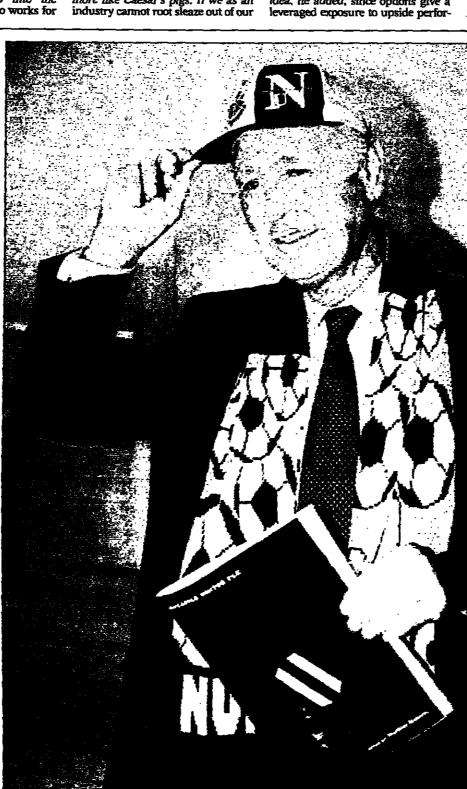
2000, so you can budget ahead with confidence. Moreover, there are no arrangement fees nor do we insist that you use our life, endowment or home insurance policies as a condition of the loan. What's more, on completion of your mortgage we will give you a full refund of your valuation fee. And as all the arrangements can be made by phone and post, we can offer you a genuinely convenient service as well as an excellent choice of mortgages. For more details. call one of our friendly consultants today or contact your

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## SB slips despite drug boost

Shares in SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceutical group, fell 42p to 919p despite news that an advisory committee to the US Food & Drug Administration has recommended approval of Coreg. a new treatment for congestive

heart failure. Developed in conjunction with Boerhinger Mannheim of the US, Coreg's benefits include slowing the progression of disease, lower hospitalisation rates, and improved pumping action of the heart. Marketing of the drug must await full FDA approval.

### A&L pledge

Peter White, chief executive of the Alliance & Leicester, vowed yesterday that the society remained on course for flotation despite the amended clause on takeover protection in the latest Building Societies Bill. The Bill removes societies' live-year protection from takeover if they acquire another financial

### Whessoe turn

Whessoe, the instrumentation group, has dropped its recommendation of the £46 million bid from Siebe and is now backing the joint £52.6 million offer from Navia of Norway and Endress & Hauser of Switzerland. The joint bidders yesterday raised their stake to 29.9 per cent.

## United Utilities hit by £83m charge on Thai contract

Go-Ahead declares an

interest in Tube sell-off

UNITED UTILITIES, the combined water and electricity group, has been hit by a £83 million charge arising from its involvement in a construction project in the Far East.

The group also announced the sale of its 50 per cent stake in Keadby Power to Scottish Hydro-Electric for £122 million.

The group said the board chaired by Sir Desmond Pitcher had reassessed the position on its Bangkok contract "following significant changes in circumstances and has concluded that it should make an additional prudent provision of £83 million, bringing the total to £90 million".

United says it is confident of recovering the costs incurred.

GO-AHEAD, the transport

group recently involved in an insider information row over

its Regional Railways North

East bid, yesterday said that it

hoped for a BR-style sell-off of

the London Underground.

The group, which already

runs Thames Trains and Thameslink in partnership, as

well as nearly 8 per cent of

Britain's bus services, said

political difficulties and high

costs would not put it off.

Chris Moyes, its commercial

The extra costs result from additional work requested by the Thai authorities relating to the building of sewers in Bangkok.

The additional money injected by United into the building of Bangkok's sewage system is to ensure its completion and no further charges are expected. The shares fell 6½ p to 667p, but City analysts said that the charge had removed the biggest problem on United's agenda.

In future, United will concentrate on the operational side of international water projects and the Bechtel Corporation of the US, already a partner on the Manila waterworks, will take responsibility for the construction element of

director, said: "Our preference

would be to see a central infrastructure with various

Yesterday, Go-Ahead re-

ported pre-tax profits up from

E6.7 million to E12.2 million

for the six months ending

December 28, excluding excep-tional items of £4.2 million.

Earnings per share rose from

12.69p to 18.76p and turnover

was up from £67.6 million to

£120 million. A dividend of

2.15p (1.85p) is due on April 24.

franchises sold off."



Pitcher: project reassessed

United's overseas contracts. All other business activities are said to be trading satisfactorily and the stated dividend policy will not be affected. Proceeds from the sale of the

to United's Norweb subsidiary, will be used to cut borrowings. The company said that because of the timing of the disposal there was only a marginal interest benefit from the debt reduction. In a full year the disposals would enhance group earnings, it said. The Keadby sale brought the total proceeds from United's disposal programme

to around £434 million. The group said: "This, together with the downward impact on earnings from the disposal process itself, has resulted in approximately £30 million in profit before exceptional items, interest and tax. compared to the pro forma contribution in 1995-96."

Tempus, page 32

THE Corporate Services Group, a contract labouring company, yesterday failed to win over the City in spite of pre-tax full-year profits more than doubled at £19.7 million. More than £5 million of the

improvement came from a change in accounting meth-ods. Exceptional items totalled £628,000 after a loss on a disposal. Shares in the company slipped 4lp to 180 2p.

Corporate Services said that new customers had signed up

## **Corporate Services**

for contract labour at a rate ahead of expectations. It added that growth in technology coupled with global competi tion should ensure that de-

## disappoints City

By Alasdair Murray

mand would increase.

Last year the company bought Blue Arrow Holdings for £54 million and GWL, a medical staff contractor, for E12 million.

Corporate Services' total dividend was increased 43 per cent to 5p. A final dividend of 3p is payable on May 30.

The death of Deng Xiaoping, architect of China's economic revolution, has recently focused the world's attention on China. Few have fully appreciated the scale of the dramatic and irreversible changes which are leading to the creation of a new economic superpower. Hong Kong's renowned commercial sophistication has and will continue to place it at the forefront of the modernisation process. Its highly developed stockmarket provides an excellent conduit through which investors can participate in China's rising prosperity at valuations which remain cheap by international comparison.

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## Closure of truck plant will affect

450 jobs

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

MORE than 450 jobs are to be lost with the closure of Iveco Ford's truck factory at Langley, near Slough in Berkshire, it was announced yesterday. lveco Ford said the 90-year-

old factory, located close to the M4, was likely to be retained to provide engineering and vehicle preparation facilities. But the factory will stop building the Cargo range of medium-sized trucks because of increasing demand for

lightweight or heavy vehicles.

be compulsory. A further 29

Most of the job losses will

jobs will be axed at the company's sites in Watford and Winsford in Cheshire. Iveco Ford, part-owned by Ford and Fiat, said that Cargo vehicles for the UK would be

supplied from its plant in Brescia, Italy.

The Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) pledged to fight the closure, which it described as another case of social dumping by a company importing vehicles at the expense of jobs.

Langley, Iveco Ford's only production factory in the UK. built fewer than 8,000 trucks last year, less than half the 16,263 built in its best ever year of 1988.

The factory originally made Hawker aircraft in the 1930s and 1940s before being bought by Ford in 1949 for storage use. Commercial vehi-

cle production began in 1960. Iveco Ford had more than 20 per cent of the UK truck market last year, but said that there was over-capacity throughout Europe.

Alan Fox, chairman, said: The West European truck market is not showing signs of increase and is polarising at the heavy and light end. The medium-weight segment shows a downward trend of 40 per cent in 20 years."

The company needed to reduce costs and to refocus production to retain its competitiveness.

Tony Woodley, the TGWU's motor industry secretary, who fought to save jobs at Ford's Halewood plant last month, said: "It is ûnaccentable that British workers should have to suffer the full brunt of production

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## GGT raising £55m to help finance takeover

GGT, the advertising agency behind the Holsten Pils ads, announced yesterday that it is to raise £55 million in a onefor-one rights issue to help to finance its £96 million purchase of BDDP, the French advertising agency. The issue will be priced at 220p-280p. The French banks that own BDDP are also to receive £28 million in cash and about £13 milion in

BBDP, best known for its Tag Heuer watch ads, went into receivership in 1994. GGT offered to buy the larger BBDP in September: GGT shares were suspended at 232p because the deal was technically a reverse takeover. They are to resume trading on the London Stock Exchange on April 3. GGT said the acquisition will double its size in Britain and America.

## Cambridge seeks £35m

CAMBRIDGE ANTIBODY TECHNOLOGY, a biotechnology company formed in 1990 to isolate human antibodies, is raising about £35 million through a placement of new shares with institutional investors. Cambridge will use the funds to develop clinical programmes, with the goal of launching three or four trials a year from 2000. Some of the products under current development include treatments for rheumatoid arthritis, eye fibrosis and solid tumours.

## **Engineering chief quits**

TOM BROWN has resigned as chief executive of United Industries after the engineering group's pre-tax profits fell 48 per cent, to £1.85 million, in 1996. Performance was marred by difficulties at Holden Hydroman, which was sold after its yearend. Ken Coates, the chairman, and two non-executive directors will run the group until a successor is appointed. Operating profit was up 26.2 per cent to £3.76 million. A dividend of 1.65p will be paid on July 4, making 2.4p (2.25p) in total.

## Tate & Lyle shares slip

SHARES in Tate & Lyle slipped 4½ p to 436½ p yesterday as the sugars and sweeteners group announced that Paul Mirsky, the head of its North American sugar division, was leaving "by mutual agreement". Although Tate & Lyle has seen a collapse in profits at Staley, its US sweeteners business, it recently reported a strong performance from the US sugar arm. The division will now report directly to Larry Pillard, Tate & Lyle's group chief executive.

## FKI plans £21m revamp

FKI, the engineering group, yesterday announced a £21 million reorganisation of its two most recent aquisitions, Hawker Siddeley and Marelli Motori. The group bought Hawker Siddeley last November for £182.5 million and Marelli Motori the month before for £52.3 million. FKI, which has increased its pre-tax profits by an average of 30 per cent each year since 1992, also revealed that its recent unsuccessful takeover bid for Newman Tonks, the door-fittings group, cost it E3.5 million.

## Eidos out of the red

YEARS of heavy investment in computer games finally paid off for Eidos in the last three months of 1996, as the software developer ended five years of losses with a quarterly pre-tax profit of £7.8 million. Eidos is on course to record a full-year profit of £9 million (£1.95 million loss). Last quarter's sales jumped to £32.1 million (£1.2 million), while earnings were 21p per share (33p loss). The shares rose 75p to £10.45 yesterday.

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TOURIST RATES

THE SUNDAY TIMES TV WARS

Welcome to the 'information skyway

In Business, tomorrow THE SUNDAY TIMES THE SUNDAY PAPERS

## Will a new government change your investment strategy?



A change of government could add a new dimension to Personal Financial Planning.

What will the consequences be for the private investor? Can you take steps now to mitigate unwelcome changes. The Personal Financial Planning Survey in this week's Investors Chronicle looks closely at the investment issues which could arise after the General Election.

The survey includes a round-up of topical investment issues. Discover how to choose private medical insurance to suit you. What questions should you ask when selecting a financial adviser? And what are the alternatives for those looking forward to free shares from building society flotations. Investment and unit

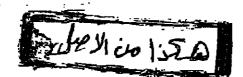
trusts go under the microscope along with funds of funds which make investments in other unit trusts.

Our section on mortgages, checks out the market for cheap mortgages, and discusses whether they are better than more Dexible ones?

Pensions can now be bought over the telephone. We pick the best deals and look closely at the charges. And will deferring your annuity give you a greater pension? Essential reading for those about

Investors Chronicle, complete with Personal Financial Planning Survey, is on sale Friday 28th February 1997. From your newsagent - price £2.20.





## A WORKING WEEK FOR: MARK GETTY AND JONATHAN KLEIN

## Entrepreneurs keep customers in the picture

Eric Reguly meets the bosses of a remarkably simple business whose goal is to become the world's top provider of visual content

6 If they argue

about anything,

it is sport. Both

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the billionaire industrialist who died in 1976, had 16 grandchildren. Only one of them is making a name for himself in business. Mark Getty, the son of John Paul II, the

philanthropist who saved Canova's Three Graces from export to America, has launched Getty Communications with Jonathan Klein, his partner. The company, one of the largest suppliers of stock photographs and images, has already scored two coups. Its shares have climbed more than 60 per cent since flotation last year on America's Nasdaq market and it has received a vote of confidence from Michael Green, the chairman of Carlton. In December, Carlton paid £17.3 million for 10 per cent of Getty Communications and has an

option to double its stake. It would be pushing it to say that the company is the comeback vehicle for the third-generation Gettys, but it may put Mark Getry on the media map. He said: "I have 15 cousins, and I am certainly the one who is most active in business."

Getty Communications operates a remarkably simple business. Through various subsidiaries, it supplies stock photos and film footage to ad-

vertising and design agencies, newspaper, magazine and book publishers, and broadcasters. Tony Stone Images, the heart of the business, consists of 2.5 million photographs, although more than 80 per cent of the sales are generated by only 40,000 pictures. Almost every magazine

has trawled its photo libraries for content. Hulton Getty, the archival collection that was originally put together by Edward Hulton, founder of the now defunct Picture Post magazine, can supply images from the very beginnings of photography. It has 300 separate collections, including vintage prints created by Man Ray, Alfred Eisenstadt and Robert Capra.

Tony Stone Images provides contemporary stock photos. They cover every subject imaginable, from sports and travel to nature and fashion. Some of the images are digitally manipulated and fall into no particular category. To illustrate a cover story on the mysteries of the human brain, Time magazine used a surreal image of a clay head opened to reveal a cloud-filled sky. Fabulous Footage, the stock film company in Toronto, provides

JOHN PAUL GETTY, Its archives contain some 5,000 hours of viewing time, most of it short clips of landscapes, urban scenes, wildlife, sports

Getty and Klein, who are both 36, run the empire from the offices of Tony Stone Images in London's Camden Town. The former warehouse buzzes with activity. Most of the employees are young, fashionably yet casually dressed, and scramble to meet tight deadlines. Newspaper and magazine art editors often require photographs within 'the hour. Conveniently, Tony Stone's core collection of images is in six large filing cabinets on the sales floor. Their destruction would wipe out most of the company's value.

Getty himself melds into the crowd. The son of one of Britain's wealthiest men could pass as any of the freelance photographers used by Tony Stone. He is tall and lean, his hair too long by City standards, and he rarely wears a suit. He is polite, laid-back and fetches his own cappuccino from the local Pret a Manger.

Klein with his round-rimmed glasses, crisp white shirt and orthodox ties could pass for an accountant. He is pushier than Getty and a first-time visitor might assume he is the man in charge. He is, in fact, chief executive. But Klein and Getty, who is executive chairman, say they are equal in every respect, right down to their

salary and the number of share options they hold, and that all decisions are made jointly. If they argue about anything, it is about sport. Both are football fanatics in the extreme and their office is littered with the remains of the sport sections of newspapers. Klein was born in

South Africa and fled to England at 17. "Politically and socially, it was not a place that made me feel comfortable, he said. He read law at Cambridge and joined the corporate finance department of Hambros Bank. Carlton was one of his main clients.

Getty was born in Rome and lived in Rome and Siena, where he has a country house, until the age of 16, when he moved to England. He read philosophy and politics at Oxford and joined the international corporate finance department of Kidder Peabody in New York.

His career was cut short in the mid-Eighties when Texaco offered to buy Getty Oil for \$10 billion. The offer came two days after Geny announced an agreement in principle to merge with Pennzoil, a rival. Since no contract had ecological tours in South Airica. been signed. Getty accepted Texaco's the third and smallest leg of the business. higher bid. Pennzoil went ballistic and began to explore the idea of going into 5,000 visual content libraries in Britain able to pull it off. The key to growth is content needs."



Mark Getty. left, and Jonathan Klein say that they are equal in every respect, right down to their salary and the number of share options they hold

sued Texaco for illegally tampering with a done deal. In 1985, Pennzoil was awarded \$11 billion in damages. Two years later, in an effort to avoid having to post a bond of equivalent value, Texaco declared bankruptcy. It eventually settled the litigation

by paying Pennzoil \$3 billion. The affair dominated the Gettys' lives for much of the second half of the Eighties, and Mark, as one of the stronger members of the family, found himself at the centre of the storm. "My role was to ensure that my family was united in its resolve to sell Getty Oil to Texaco. I had to keep them in the right direction," he said.

By 1989, Geny was ready to resume his career. He joined Hambros, where he met Klein. They worked together on several deals, including the launch of Conservation Corporation, a specialist in game and

business for themselves. Klein said: "I have always been a frustrated entrepreneur. I've always had a hankering to do it

The duo decided to use the Getty family trusts as their vehicle. In 1993 they formed Getty Investment Holdings, which brought together the various Getty trusts, and formed vague plans to enter the media market. They stumbled on Tony Stone Images, which was founded by Tony Stone, a London photographer, in the mid-Sixties and snapped it up for £27 million. The next step was to create Getty Communications to hold Tony Stone. Getty Investment Holdings controls 69 per cent of its votes; Klein and Getty have 8 per cent each.

Getty and Klein realised that the photostills business was ripe for exploitation. ecological tours in South Africa.

Their research determined that the industry was highly fragmented — there are

the sheer sake of growth, they might be
preferred port of co

alone — which presented the opportunity to grow quickly through acquisitions. Furthermore, the arrival of new magazines and TV channels would ensure that overall demand could only increase.

The visual content industry is estimated to be worth \$6 billion a year. Hulton Getty and Fabulous Footage were acquired last spring and Getty Communications was floated on Nasdaq at \$10 a share a few months later. Several more acquisitions are in the works.

Klein and Getty do not plan to stray from the formula with the purchase of glamour businesses such as film studios. Getty said: "We are going to stick to our guns. We will not be seduced into buying something that is not part of our core strategy." Their goal is to become the world's top provider of visual content, and Tony Stone, which has wholly-owned or licensed offices in more than 30 countries. It forms the backbone of an international distribution network that can supply more images as Getty Communications acquires more catalogues.

Getty Communications' other strategic advantage is Carlton. Recruiting Carlton has helped to dispel the notion that the company occupies the fringes of the art world. More importantly, Carlton might open doors in Hollywood for Klein and Getty. Carlton's Technicolor subsidiary is the world's largest producter of prerecorded video cassettes. It is also the biggest producer of motion picture film.

Such connections could lead to deals with the film studios, giving Getty Communications access to an endless array of popular film footage and photo we want to be th preferred port of call for anyone's visual

## The bank where borrowing has become a work of art



David Dodsworth's Marsoulas is on show at JP Morgan

Investment Management in King Street, would be forgiven for wondering whether the London branch of this Wall Street behemoth had let loose its mergers and acquisitions team armed with chequebooks to pop across the road to Christie's and lay in an exqui-

site new collection of fine art. Those interested in naval history will spot the pair of century navigators globes on display upstairs. These are German bimetallic globes made in 1725 from silvered copper and brass, beautifully etched, one as a terrestrial and one as a celestial globe. They are rare museum pieces and in excellent condition. undoubtedly the highlight of an eclectic collection that in-

Bankers invited into the smoothly marbled offices of JP Morgan marine scenes in the boardroom and a series of contemporary oils and works in other media displayed in meeting rooms and corridors. It was JP Morgan's office

> move two years ago from Pall Mall that led to the planning of this new display of treasures. And the bank has been ingenious. The really valuable pieces - the two globes, the Lowrys and the marine oils have all been acquired as part of a borrowing programme from the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich.

"As a bank we like to think of ourselves as being involved in the exploration of new frontiers. We have a strong investigative culture so we thought that the theme of exploration would be a suit-

## **HIDDEN ASSETS**

able one for our art collection," says Wesley Paul, global head of investment at JP Morgan. "We decided to set up a borrowing programme and also to complement that by commissioning a series of works of our own by contemporary artists on the subject of exploration, man's journeys along the routes of education and knowledge."

While most leading mus-eums have inadequate hanging space for their collections, some, such as Greenwich and the Fitzwilliam (in Cambridge), have devised lending schemes designed to give exposure to art works that would otherwise lie unseen and unappreciated in storage. JP

Morgan picked its two globes and ten pictures from the Greenwich store and its financial contribution for the loan will go towards the publication of a book on the museum's first-rate collection of

historic globes. The commissioned contemporary works consist of eight pieces by artists from as far afield as Argentina, Japan and the US. "The theme for all of them was learning through the ages," says Paul, "so we have representations of primitive learning, the philosophers, the industrial age, the modern age — all the great periods of learning in history."

Peter Harris, of International Art Consultants, advised the

Ricardo Cinalli, whose delicate pastels on tissue paper are popular with City institutions. Kume Yoko produced a calm still life in oil called Homage to Leonardo, and Michael Heseitine (not the politician) painted a skittish rendition of the thoughts of Aristotle

The collection of commissigned works is very international and therefore very varied in style, but it is well focused on the theme of the quest for knowledge," says Harris. "New collections really need a dear-cut theme to work well." And this one does work

well. The range of works moves from elegant abstrac-tion to quirky figuration and has good variety and pace. But

been surprised with some of the results. "There are some wonderful pieces, but they haven't all turned out exactly as one would have wanted.

The patron stayed out of the artistic process on all works except one, a figurative bronze by Maurice Blick, the American sculptor. The first sketches showed a man's hands reaching up. We thought it would be better to have a man's and a woman's hands, and then we saw that it would be difficult to distinguish between them so we asked him to turn it into figures of a man and a woman reaching up." The result, despite all the politically correct tinkering, is a forcefully moving image of eternal youth searching for knowledge.

JOANNA PITMAN



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## Barclays foiled again in shares buyback quest

Bank into the market to complete its share buyback programme met with only limited success. Extensive searches by Cazenove and BZW, its own securities arm. to find willing sellers ended in failure. By the close of business they had only managed to acquire a further 1.5 million shares at £11.32.

Earlier in the week Barclays had attempted to buy a total of 26 million shares, but found only enough willing sellers to acquire 9.2 million. Institutional sellers have proved to be hard to find. Brokers said it was strange for Barclays to embark on a buyback pro-gramme midway through the bank dividend reporting season. It might have been better to wait until after. Barclays closed 18p down at £11.09 as the total number of shares

traded reached 4.37 million. The announcement from NatWest Bank that it is to make provisions totalling £50 million and had suspended a senior trader came after the close of official trading. The shares closed virtually unchanged on the day at 7582 p. Brokers fear they could open sharply lower when trading resumes on Monday.

NatWest made the move after discovering mis-pricing errors in its NatWest Markets securities ann. The errors related to its interest rate options book. A former trader at NatWest is also being investigated by the Securities and Futures Authority. The bank insists that the losses do not affect clients.

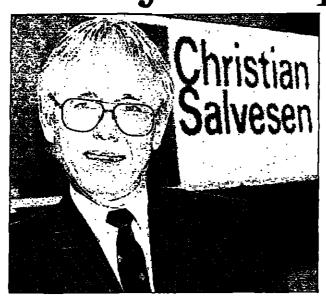
Other banks had another mixed session. Abbey National fell 122p to 7552p as the deadline for the sealed bids for Scottish Amicable was reached. Abbey has already made an offer of £1.5 billion, but this has been ropped by the Prudential Corporation, down 4p

Meanwhile. Standard Chartered added a further 36p to 841p as brokers continued to recommend the shares after strong profit numbers earlier this week. HSBC, reporting next week, advanced 19p to £15.82. Bank of Scotland, which warned the market earlier this week about profits from its Australian subsidiary, was unchanged at 341p. Royal Bank of Scotland lost 11p at 577 2 p.

The rest of the equity market managed to close above its

Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct 

| Solution | Solution



Chris Masters, of Christian Salvesen, saw Morgan Stanley Asset Management lift its stake in the company to 10 per cent

aged partly by a strong rally on Wall Street after an early markdown in the Dow Jones industrial average of almost 60 points. After dipping below the 4,300 level, the FT-SE 100 index later rallied to close 30.9 down on the day at 4,308.3. The loss on the week was 28.5.

raised on disposals to £434 Despite the uncertainty million. That compares with caused by the call for a rise in the group's original target for US interest rates by Alan the the disposal programme of

The speculators piled into Helical Bar, the property developer cheered by the news that Gerald Kaye, a director, had been adding to his holding. He has bought 55,000 shares at 425p. It takes his total holding to 97,000 shares, or 0.58 per cent. Helical Bar closed 11p better, at 432 p.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

-13p..... -85p..... +177½p... +25½p... +20½p...

Greenspan, the Fed chairman, the undertone in the London market remains firm.

Zeneca dropped 3312p to £18.05 on reports that the US Food and Drug Administration has told the group that some of its production faciliries did not meet its standards.

United Utilities retreated 6p to 66712 p after making provisions totalling E83 million relating to a big contract in Bangkok. The provision had

Stanford Rook ..  £350 million. Scottish Hydro firmed 2p to 35512p. Strong sales of coaches and buses boosted pre-tax profits at

been made because of "signifi-

cant changes to circum-

stances". At the same time.

UU has sold Norweb's 50 per

cent stake in Keadby Power to

Scottish Hydro, its partner in

the venture, for £122.7 million.

It brings the total amount

Christian Salvesen slipped lp Morgan Stanley Asset Man-

TB treatment tests delaw

### Henlys last year from £25.3 million to £33.3 million. The figure was at the top end of expectations and the shares responded with a jump of 32½ p to 559p. Former takeover targe

h	stock levels would have to be	Technoplast 112
ır	written down by around £2	
of	million.	1
	Full-year figures from Cor-	MAJOR CHANG
_	porate Services failed to live	
r.	up to expectations, leaving the	RISES:
n	shares 41p down at 1894p.	Porvair 300p
ĺt	Even so, profits last year leapt	Linton Park
2 [	119 per cent to £19.1 million.	Sege Gp 617's
	Speculative buying resur-	Invesco
	faced in Yorkshire-Tyne Tees	Johnston Press 202 Laporte 6471
_	as the price surged 30p to	Stand Chart 841':
0	£12.722. Granada, down	Derwent Hidgs 514'.
g	214 p at 9083 p, has 25 per cent	Cantab Pharms 925
s	of the shares and is expected to	Bernrose 448
ιŧ	bid for the rest at some stage.	PizzaExpress
3	Baldwin shrugged off a	Gen Accident 836
e	profits setback to close 10p	Vendome 527
ıf	dearer at 1272 p. The group	Cadbury-Schw 50 Servomex 411
S	plans to raise fresh funds by	Helical Bar
f	selling off selected properties.	Polypspe 264p
	☐ GILT-EDGED: Bond	HTV Group 3611
t.	prices in London fell by more	l '
р	than £1, reflecting similar falls	FALLS:
t	on overseas markets. Support	Corp Services 189
ı~	levels were quickly breached	Cliveden
	as prices closed near their low	Cortects 227
7	point of the day. In futures, the	Capital Corpn 2
- 1	March series of the long gilt	Broken Hill 81
ŀ	future fell £7s to £1121132. In	Ryl Bk Scot 577
- 1	longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021	Grand Met 453'
- 1	dropped £1116 to £1062, while	Tesco
	in shorts Treasury 7½ per cent	Concentric
-1	2006 was off £1116 at £1011116.	Rentokil Itl 451;   De La Rue 623;
- {	□ NEW YORK: US stocks	Posm Rail 412'-d

£12.2 million.

six months leap 82 per cent to

A profits warning left Blockleys bp lower at 39p

after the group said pre-tax

losses during 1996 would be

significantly larger than cur-

rent market expectations. The

building products group said

held weaker levels in early

trading, with technology

shares seeing further selling.

At midday, the Dow Jones

industrial average was down

5.77 points to 6,919.30.

c s	New York (midday): Dow Jones
	Tokyo: Nikkel Average
• •	Hong Kong: Hang Seng
ain in	Amsterdam: 737.46 (-9.69)
	Sydney: 3449.9 (-14.8)
uest	Frankfurt: DAX
ucst	Singapore: 2195,70 (+5.07)
agement had lifted its holding in the company to 29.4 million	Brussels: [4.84]
shares, or 10 per cent of the equity. Last year, Chris Mas-	Paris: 2507.55 + 21.85)
ters, chief executive, and his team fought off an unwanted £1.3 billion bid from Hays,	Zurich: ska Gen
down 8p at 551p.  Spargo Consulting, the	London: FT 30 2847.5 (~23.1)
computer systems service	FT i00 4308.3 (-30.9)
group, held steady at 1692 p	FTSE Mid 250
after posting a solid perfor-	FTSE Eurotrack 100 2140.38 (-4.19)
mance last year that saw pre-	FT Alf-Share
tax profits grow 33.5 per cent	FT Fixed Interest 1]9.87 (+0.33)
to £1.2 million. Tony Spargo,	FT Govi Secs
chairman and founder, said the group was still attracting	Bargains 47446 SEAQ Volume 831.3m
new business to add to its	US\$
already extensive list of blue	German Mark
chip clients.	Bank of England official close (4pm)
A sharp jump in profits and	E:ECU1,4103
encouraging noises about cur-	RP1 154.4 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100
rent trading lifted Go-Ahead	RPIX 153.9 Jan (3.1%) Jan 1987=100
Group, which was last month	Droprint Joseph
awarded the Thameslink fran-	RECENT ISSUES
chise, 25½ p to 513p. The group saw pre-tax profits in the first	Anglo-Welsh         + 3
saw pre-tax profits in the first	Angio-weish 1361: + 3

RPIX 153.9 Jan (3.1			
RECENTIS	SUE	S	
Anglo-Welsh Aortech C&B Publishing Calidore Warrants Centrica (75') Energy Group (525) Howle Infobank Intl Nord Anglo Eductor PSD (A/L) TR Euro Gwth Wrts Tea Plantations Inv Technoplast	111'; 136'; 175 1 65'; 523'; 31'; 143 169'; 283'; 57'; 102 112	++	3 3 2 13 1 5 1 2 4

_	MAJOR CHANGES
•	<u> </u>
3	RISES:
	Porvair 300p (+37'sp)
ŧ	Linton Parl 394p (+20':p)
•	Sage Gp 617'2p (+31p)
	Invesco
5	Johnston Press 2021:p (+8p)
_	Laporte
)	Stand Chart , 841'±p (∸26p)
ì	Derwent Hidgs 514'-p (+15p)
t	Cantab Pharms 925p (+25p)
)	Bernrose 4481-p (+9p)
	PizzaExpress 615p (+9p)
Ł	Gen Acc⊲dent 836p (+7'-p)
,	Vendome 527'.p (+7p)
,	Cadbury-Schw 506p (+9p)
,	Servomex 4111:p (+8p)
'	Helical Bar 4321-p (+11p)
. 1	Polypipe 264p (+151:p)
ı	HTV Group 3611-p (+11p)
:	FALLS:
	Corp Services 1891-p (-41p)
1	Cliveden 93'2p (-8p)
	Osborne & Little 860p (-45p)
,	Cortecs 227'30 (-11p)
.	Capital Corpn
.	Broken Hill 811p (-17p)
	Ryl Bk Scot 577'ap (-11p)
	Grand Met
١	Tesco
١.	Concentric 1501-p (-5p)
	Rentokil Itl 451p (-15':p)
.	De La Rue 6231-p (-24p)
Į	Prism Rail 412'20 (-17'20)
. 1	Kenwood App 139p (-6p)
١.	Richards
- [	Blocklevs 390 (-60)

	P()
Polypspe , , ,	264p (+15¹₃;
HTV Group	
FALLS:	
Corp Services	1891:p (-41p
Cliveden	93'sn (-80
Osborne & Little	860n (-45c
Cortecs	235p ; -up
Capital Corpn	
Broken Hill	. 811p (-17p
Ryl Bk Scot	. 577'ap (-11p
Grand Met	
Tesco	
Concentric	
Rentokil Itl	
De La Rue	6231:p (-24p
Prism Rail 4	112'ap (-17'ap
Kenwood App	139p (-6p
Richards	38'₂¤ (-6¢
Blockleys	
Alvis	
Renairi	

Closing Prices Page 49

## MAJOR INDICES

(-auco)	l
8.3 HO.11	HENLYS has found
(4pm)	perfect escape route fro
1.4103	
1.1756	retailing. Unlike its
1987≈JDO	whose margins are tal
1987=100	pasting because of the
	supply of identikit vehi
_	
S	is managing to ignor
—— i	peccadillos of the car-b
+ 3	public and snuggle
+ 3 1	
	Britain's bus barons.
1	Privatisation has del
- 21,	a new wave of bus o
- 13	
	keen to replace agein
+ 15	ing stock inherited fro
- [ [	Government. Over ha
+ 5	
- 1	nation's bus fleet is
_ 7 1	than ten years old and

Then follows the inexplic-

## **TEMPUS**

## Theatre of the absurd

THE GLARE from the footlights is not to the liking of some fund managers who may his success in achieving corporate objectives. has rightly pointed out that it ill behoves Caesar's wife to make a fuss about boardroom perks if she has her own nose stuck deep in the trough. Most fund managers could not have been less interested in Cedric Brown's salary which was not per se unreasonable pay for the job. In hindsight, less fuss over remuneration might have allowed the market to engage in a rational debate on business strategy, thus preventing

the absurd demerger of British Gas.

The question is whether it has all gone too far. The answer is both yes and no. Institutions are concerned with investment performance: the level of boardroom pay is only an issue if it fails to mirror performance or takes a disproportionate slice of the company's profits, bearing in mind the shareholders' interest. Therefore, the absolute

be feeling that corporate governance is But what is unacceptable is the current trend becoming more theatre than substance. One of hiding the value of awards using share option schemes. Most schemes involve the issue of shares, an unacceptable dilution of shareholder capital which disguises the true cost of the remuneration to the company. If fund managers were true custodians of the pension fund member's assets, they would insist that any shares awarded to directors were purchased in the market at the going rate, the cost of the benefit being recorded annually in the accounts.

If the public at large treats options as "free lunch" for the bosses, they are not far wrong. The reason is not the sometimes enormous gains from share price increases which may, in fact, be due to the director's own superior efforts. Share options are offensive because they perpetuate the fraud that capital can be gained at no cost. There is a cost and it is being borne by pensioners.

rise in share price still leaves

the company good value. When the bus barons have

had their full, and the re-

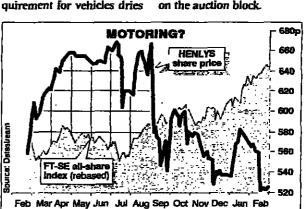
Henlys

livered ig roilom the alf the than ten years old and many are falling to bits. As the darling of Stagecoach, Firstbus and Cowie, the Henlys's order book is healthy for the rest of the year.

able phenomenon of the velvet-lined coach. Henlys's Canadian arm sold 305 luxury one-man coaches to Amer-

icans last year, at about £900,000 apiece. The market up, continental European demand should be on the is growing at 33 per cent, and margins are bountiful. For the next few years. Henlys's profits should part along quite nicely. Its well-earned

The question remaining is why the company still clings to its car dealerships. It now accounts for less than one fifth of profits, the market is tough and few dealers are surviving unscathed. The best place for the division is on the auction block.



### **United Utilities**

UNITED UTILITIES is in a right mess in Bangkok. The group is building the first sewerage system for a city of ten million people but now the Governor of Bangkok seems intent on prolonging the stinking agony. He insists that United

must lengthen the tunnel system by 25 per cent. At the same time restrictions are being imposed on work: to allow the good burghers of Bangkok a decent night's sleep, work can only take place for four hours during darkness: other regulations are prohibiting access to vital roads. United claims that the local authorities are in seeking legal redress. But the

gest that United should have on a Friday afternoon.

projects. But the group should not interpret the Bangkok problem as a reason to change strategy. Some 27 million of its 33 million customers live overseas. New projects such as the Manila waterworks present immense opportunities.

been wary of Third World

### NatWest

WHAT is a mispricing error? NatWest Markets found some in its interest rate options book. It found quite a few, enough to make a provision of £50 million in the bank's accounts, notify the Securities and Futures Authority and shuffle a couple of traders off the floor.

But what is a mispricing error? Not enough to make a real fuss, just a weasle-worded statement to the Stock Ex-Little Englanders may sug- change after close of dealings

Did someone blunder? That would be a mere pricing error - writing one number when we mean to write another number, a mishap. But a mispricing error is different. It requires more skill, the vast resources of a global investment bank, systems, pro-

cedures and supervision. Could there be more than mistakes here? The implication is that profits were, somehow, increased as a result of the error. Now that NatWest has corrected the mispricing, it has decided to make the profits smaller

What is a mispricing error? It is not the wrong figures or the disappearing staff or the the management error in pouring money into a volatile

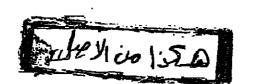
EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

low point of the day, encour-	<u> </u>	<del></del>
	COMMODITIES	
LIFFE	ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)	GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES
	CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel POB)	LIFFE WHEAT   LIFFE BARLEY
COCOA	Brent Physical 19.35 -0.65	(close £/1) (close £/1)
Mar	Brent L5 day (Apr) 19.20 -0.25	Mar 95.60 Mar 41.50 May 48.70 May 93.20
lul 404-973 Sep 499 BID	Brent IS day (May) 18.90 -0.25	May
Sep 427-426 Dec unu	W Texas Intermediate (Apr) 20.66 -0.35 W Texas Intermediate (May) 20.45 -0.25	Sep9290 Nov9279
Dec 302-458	I	Nov 94 97 Jan 94.79
Mar 160458 Volume: 12726	PRODUCTS (\$/MT)	Volume: 416 Volume: 15
ROBUSTA COFFEE (\$)	Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)	} <u></u>
Mar 1940-1587 Nov , ung	1 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	LIFFE POTATO (E/O Open Close
Nay 1997-1995 Jan 1565 BID	Bid Offer   Premium Unid 204 ⊢2) 208 ⊢2)	Mar
ol lold SLR Mar unq	Premium Unid   204 (-2)   208 (-2)     Gasoil EEC   104 (-1)   165 (-1)	May unq 70.50
iep 1000 SLR Volume. 1000k	3.5 Fuel Oil 84 (-1) 86 (-1)	Volume 6
WHITE SUGAR (FOB)	Naphiha	
Reuters Dec, 303.7402.0	, · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cil p/li)
PUT 311 8 Mar 34.2-01.5	IPE FUTURES (GNI Lid)	Feb 78 75-79.25
Mas 308 oct 7.5 May 313,0-00 7 May 307,0-12,7 Hul ung	GAS OIL	LICER DIETRY & NU Laiding
X1 2 304.2031 Volume 1561	Mar = 162.25-62.50 Jun 166.75-67.00	LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd \$10/pg
	Apr 164,00-64,25 Jul 168,50-68.75	High Low Clove
	May 165 SO BID Vol: 15510	Mar 97 1490 1460 1462 Apr 97 1515 1500 1510
MEAT& LIVESTOCK	BRENT (6.00pm)	Apr 47   1515   1500   1510   Jul 97   1260   1250   1260
COMMISSION	Apr 1917-1914 Jul 18.67 BID	Oct 97 ung — 1400
Average (alstock prices at representative	May 18.42-18.44 Aug . 18.67 SIR	Vol: 252 lots Open interest: 3220
markets on February 27 p/kg hv) Pig Sheep Cattle	Jun 18.78-18 90 Vol: 35290	Index 1443 - 11
p/kg hv) Pig Sheep Caule 30	\ <del></del>	
(*c-1	(Official) (Volume prev day) LONDON	METAL EXCHANGE Rudolf Wolf
mp/Water 45.54 (43.4) (00.90)	Copper Gde A (\$110pine) Cash: 2423.0-	2424.0 3mth: 2367 0-23400 Vol: 1777525
(***) *167	Lead (\$/100 pe) 722,00-1	725 00 699,70,699 50 169600
150	Zing Spec Hi Gde (\$#ionne) 1208 0-	
icolland	Tin (\$7(0nne)	
	Aluminium Hi Gde (\$400ne)   1623.5-   Nicke) (\$400ne)   7935.04	
<del></del>		
• •	LIFFE OPTIONS	
<del></del>	ELL FOLLOWS	
Calls Puts Series Apr. Jul. Oct Apr. Jul. Oct	Calls Pots	Calls Pats
Series \pr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct		Calls Puts Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct
Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct Uld Dom 420 27 38 40 7 17 20	Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct  BAA 500 40 44° 55 3 []; 15	Scries Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct Abby Nat i50 22 49 55 30 40 53
Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct	Series Apr Jul Det Apr Jul Det  BAA	Calls Prats Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct Abby Nat. 750 22 49 55 30 46 53 (756) 80 59 26 38 67 78 89
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Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct	Calls   Pote	Calls   Pass
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Series Var Jul Oct 4pr Jul Oct	Calls   Pots	Calls Pais  Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct  Abby Nat. 750 22 49 55 30 40 53  (756) 800 5, 26 35, 67 78 87,  Amstrad 400  (unq) 100  Barciars 1100 41, 77 92 26 42 59;  (1109) 1150 19, 52, 63, 57, 68 85  Natt Perr. 450 44 - 9,  C189*4 500 13 32 29 22 41 45  Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct  Glazo W., 1000 54 75, 93 194 36 49;
Series   QP   Jul   Oct   Apr   Jul   Oct	Calls   Pots	Calls Pats  Series Apr Ital Oct Apr Ital Oct  Abby Nat. 150 22 49 55 30 46 53  (756) 800 59 26 35 67 18 89  Aristrad 160
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Series   QP   Jul   Oct   App   Jul   Oct	Calls   Pots	Calls Pats  Series Apr Ind Oet Apr Ind Oet Abby Nat. 1300 22 49 55 30 40 53 (756) 800 59 26 38 67 78 89 (7756) 100 40 77 79 2 20 42 59 71 100 1150 1150 1150 1150 1150 1150 11
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Series   QP   Jul   Oct   Apr   Jul   Oct	Calls   Posts	Calls Pats  Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct  Abby Nat 730 22 49 55 30 40 51  C756 800 5, 26 38 67 78 89 70  Amstrad 140
Series   Apr   Jul   Oct   Apr   Jul   Oct	Calls   Pots	Calls   Pats
Series   Apr   Jul   Oct   Apr   Jul   Oct	Calls   Pots	Calls   Pasts
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Series   Apr   Jul   Oct   Apr   Jul   Oct	Calls   Posts	Calls
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Series   Apr   Jul   Oct   Apr   Jul   Oct	Calls	Calls
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Series   Apr   Jul   Oct   Apr   Jul   Oct	Calls   Pots	Calls
Series   Apr   Jul   Oct   Apr   Jul   Oct	Calls   Pots	Calls Pats  Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct Abby Nat. 1500 22 49 55 30 46 53 (756) 800 59 26 38 67 78 89 74 (1970) 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 1
Series   Apr   Jul   Oct   Apr   Jul   Oct	Calls   Pots	Calls
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<u> </u>			_	_		Sett	•
		Period	Open	High	Low	301	Ve
Long Gilt		Mar 97 .	113.07	113-15	112-07	112.11	9147
Previous open interest:		Jua 97	112-24	112-29	111-23	112-27	3874
German Govt Bon Previous open interest		Mar 97 . Jun 97	103.61 102.83	103.98 103.16	103.15	103. 8  02.36	27h87- 523b
Italian Govt Bond		магчт.	219.90	129.96	127.48	127.50	9520
Previous open Interest:		Jun 97	124.55	129.60	127.27	127.25	4407
Japanese Govt Bor	nd (JGB)	Маг 97 .	125.4	126.36	126.30	126.36	303
Three Mth Sterling		Jun 97 Mar 97	124.9%	124.88	124.92	93.71	313
	•	маг 97 Јип 97	93.73 93.53	93.73 93.54	93.70 93.43	93.44	107u 2779
Previous open interest:		Sep 47 _	93.32	43.34	dr 33	93.22	2012
Three Mth Euroma Previous open Interest:		Mar 97 Apr 97	96.76 96.79	95.77 95.80	96.75 95.79	10.70 10.70	2287. 10
Three Mth Eurolin		Mar 47	92.79	92.80	92.60	92.n3	2815
Previous open interest:		Jun 47	07.28	93.32	112,96	93.01	Strok
Three Mih Euroye	'n	79 auc	99 40	<b>40, 10</b>	49,40	99.10	913
Three Mth Eurosw	rice.	50 P 97 Mar 117 .	64.37	9U 32	99.32 98.27	40,32 44,29	650 1953
Previous open interest.		Jun 97	98.30 98.35	04.31 04.31	OK.31	48.33	4053
Three Mth ECU		Mar 47	95,34	45,81	95 75	95,75	110
Previous open interest: 3		Jun 47	45 Su	45,46	95,78	·15 7H	463
FTSE 100 Previous open interest, r		Mar 97 Jun 97 .	43220 43240	13 <u>2</u> 30 4,5 <b>4</b> ,3	4272.0 4291.0	1385.0 4304.5	18530 633
. /	MONE	Y RA	TES	<b>%</b> }			
<u></u>					<u> </u>		_
Base Rates: Clearing !		muce Hee					
Discount Market Loa Treasury Bills (DiskB				ow 5" : 2 mth :	5°e : 3 n	Week (1) nih: 5'	
	l mih	2 mth		neth	6 mt	_	L2 onth
		5"u-6		6-64	tre tre		14 1011
Prime Bank Bills (Di	A 3 4-3 11						
Sterling Money Rates	d'wb	bri	) ba	<b>6</b> ′••6′•	6'*	t	
Sterling Money Rates Interbank:	b'a-b		) ba		6'*	ti	
Sterling Money Rates Interbank: Overnight: open 5', cl	6 6'w6 6'w6 6'0 5'i .	t/+6	y. V.	<b>6</b> ′••6′•	6's	tin tin	
Sterling Money Rates Interbank: Overnight: open 5% ch Local Authority Deps:	6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	b'-ti b'-ti n	/4 /4	6'm-6's 6'm-6's	6'r	tin tin	6"-6"
Sterling Money Rates Interbank: Overnight: open 5% ch Local Authority Deps: Sterling CDs:	6 0'w6 6'=6 6'4'5': 6 6'4'6	t/+6 t/+6 n 6'√-6	)	6'=6'- 6'=6'- 6'-	6'v 6'v	tin tin tin	6"=-6": 6":-
Sterling Money Rates Interbank: Overnight: open 5% cl Local Authority Deps Sterling CDs Dollar CDs	6 6'mh b'=6 one 5's . 6 6'ch 5.32	t/+6 t/+6 n 6'√-6	/s /s /s /o /o	6'm-6's 6'm-6's	6'v 6'v	to'n to'n to'n pt'i ti US7	6"=-6"- 6"- 6"0-6"\0 5.83
Sterling Money Rates Interbank: Overnight: open 5% ch Local Authority Deps Sterling CDs: Dollar CDs: Building Society CDs TREASURY BILLS: A	6 6/m6 6/m 5/m 6/m 5/m 6/m 5/m 5/m 5 6/m 5 Lpplets: £2,177	trictions to the control of the cont	/a /a /b /a /c d: C400a	0'm0'. 6'm0'. 6'm0'. 6'm0'. 5.42 0'm0'. 1; Bkte:	6'v 6'v 6'e 6'e (48.50%	dia dia dia dia dia foi foi foi received	6"=6" 6"+6"\ 5.83 6"+6"= 4: 57%;
Sterling Money Rates Interbank: Overnight: open 5% ck Local Authority Deps: Sterling CDs: Dollar CDs: Building Society CDs: TREASURY BILLS: A Last week 196.56% reck	6 6/m6 6/m 5/m 6/m 5/m 6/m 5/m 5/m 5 6/m 5 Lpplets: £2,177	trictions to the control of the cont	/a /a /b /a /c d: C400a	0'm0'. 6'm0'. 6'm0'. 6'm0'. 5.42 0'm0'. 1; Bkte:	6's 6's 6's 6'c (48,50%	dia dia dia dia dia foi foi foi received	6"=-6" 6"+-6"\ 5.83 6"-6"\ 1: 57%;
Sterling Money Rates Interbank: Overnight: open 5% ck Local Authority Deps: Sterling CDs: Dollar CDs: Building Society CDs: TREASURY BILLS: A Last week 196.56% reck	6 6/m6 6/m 5/m 6/m 5/m 6/m 5/m 5/m 5 6/m 5 Lpplets: £2,177	trictions to the control of the cont	/a /a /b /a /c d: C400a	0'm0'. 6'm0'. 6'm0'. 6'm0'. 5.42 0'm0'. 1; Bkte:	6's 6's 6's 6'c (48,50%	dia dia dia dia dia foi foi foi received	6"=6" 6"+6"\ 5.83 6"+6"= 4: 57%;
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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

DOLLAR RATES		WALL STREET	
ol Australia	Feb 24 Feb 27	Feth 28 Feth 27	) Feb 28 Feb ∑
73 Belgium (Com)	midday chu;	midday close	madday dawr
48   Canada	AMP Inc 39 39	Eaten Corp 72 721	Oracle 39 41.
. Denmark 6.4530-6.4550	AMR Corp 78': 74': ASA 37': 37':	Edison ini 214 215 Elect Data Sys 404 454	Oryx Energy Co 19 30. Overseas Ship 174 174
France	AT & 7 40 49. Abbet Labs 57's 57's	Emerson Elec 99° 100° Engelhard Corp 20° 21°	Owens Coming 42", 42", PHH Corp 48", 49
Do Hong Kong 7.7432-7.7436	Advanced Micro 34's 35's	Enron Corp 304 107	PPG industries 55% 55%
70   Ireland	Arina Ufe 83 83's Ahmanson (HFI 47'- 62	Entergy 254 26 Ethyl Corp 4. 4.	PNC Bank 42% 42% PPAL Res 27% 27%
Japan	Alf Prod & Chem 75% 76% Alf Touch Commi 27% 27	Except 49', Infi FMC Corp 49' 61's	Pactar Inc 63', 63 . Pacificorp 30', 20',
Malaysia	Alberto-Culver B 281 281	FPL Group 41' 41'	Pac Enterprises XV 34V
17 Norway 6.743045,7490	Albertson's 35 35°. Alcan Alumput 35°, 35°.	Federal Express 51 50. First Bk 59s 70, 81	Pac Telesis 40°, 40°, Pall Corp 22° 22°;
21 Portugal	Alified Signal 71's 72 Alorn Co of Arth 71's 72's	First Union Rity 13 13 13 Fiest Fint Grp 67 59;	Parker Hannifin 43'. 43'.
Singapore 1.4258-1.4268	Amay facild inc 75 75	Fluor Curp NI 61	Penny (IC) 44' 18's
Spain 143.02-143.67 Sweden 7.4974-7.5054	Arrier Brands. 53 51	Ford Motor 32% 32% GTE Corp 47% 44%	Pennzell 57, 57, Fepsico 33, 33
Switzerland 1.4775-1.4780	Amer El Power 405 415 Amer Express 635 645	Gannen 80°, 80°, Gap inc Del 32°, 33°,	Pfizer og . 025 Pharm & Upinn 37 375
,	Amer Geni Corp. 43. 13.	Gencorp 18', 18'.	Phelps Dodge 70', 71'.
OTHER STERLING	Amer (nt) 1217-1225	Gen Electric 1041 105%	Phillip Morris 1335 1355. Phillips Per 41 415
·	Amer Stones 44': 45 Amer Standard 44': 45	Gen Mills 65°, 65°, Gen Motors 57°, 57°,	Princy Bowes 62% 62% Polaroid 43% 43%
Argentina perer	Americon 61 n/	Gen Reinsurance Inc. 172,	Proceer & Gmbl 119, 120.
Bahrain dinar	Anheuser-Busch 47: 41'.	Genuine Parts 425, 475	Providian 55% 56 Pub Serv E & G: 28% 28%
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' Pakisian move ist 15 Ruu	Bankamerica 183 (16%) Benkinf NY (3%) 19%	Heidell Packard 95', 50', Hillon Hotels 24', 34',	Si Paul's Cos 68', 60'.
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S A(rica rand (com) 7.1770-7.2790)	Bausch & Lumb 17', 17's	Homestake Mag to: 165 Huneywell 71', 71	Schering Plough 75', 77 Schlumberger 99', 99',
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.	Bell Atlantic en nº. Bell Industries 22: 21	Humana (4°, 19	Sears Poebuck 53 534. Shell Trans 101% feet.
	BellSmuth 46'- 46'-	Non Other 42', 43	Sherwin Wilms 56% 56% Sivilne Corp 24 24
FTSE VOLUMES	Black & Decker 125 125 Block (HAR) 275 295	illinuis Inol 84° 44° Illinuis 25° 25°	Snap-in-Tools 38' 39
i   .	Boeing 1025 pap. Bolte Cascade 175 335	(NO) 35, 10,	Sprint Corp 45' 41's
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## **DREAM DASHED 34**

Gazumpers are back in action

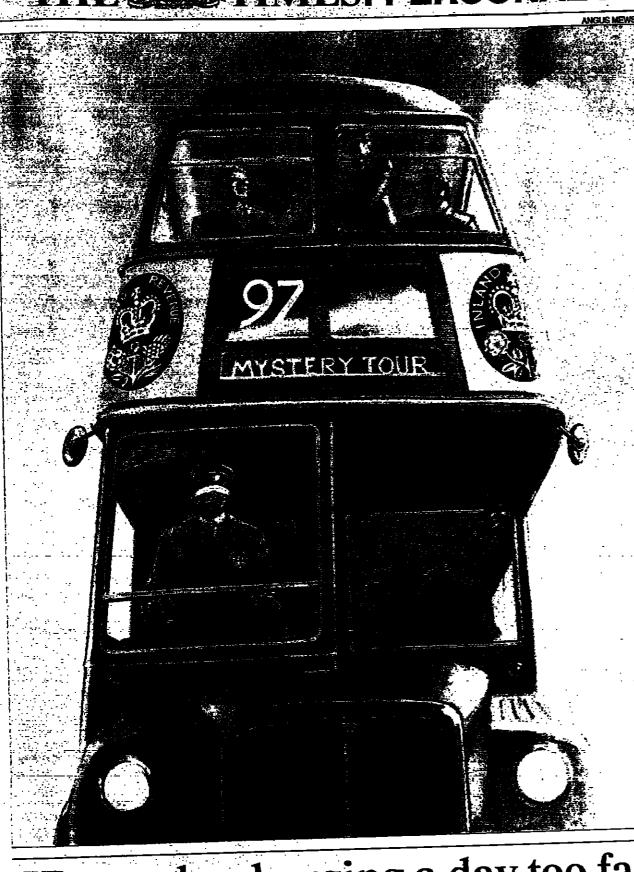
## WEEKEND MONEY

**RULED OUT 36** 

Angry Halifax investors who don't count



THE STATES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



## Time for some spring cleaning the election, your tax affairs may still need some spring

end of the tax year. The general election also looms. While taxpayers struggle to make the best use of their allowances and reliefs before April 5, they fear that they may be about to embark on a mystery tour. Under Tony Blair, the tax rules may be radically

changed.

Most accountants report little panic at the prospect of a Labour government. But a few clients are preparing to decamp overseas to shelter their wealth from the socialists.

John Whiting of Price Waterhouse says that Labour seems to have persuaded the wealthy that it has no intention of taxing them until the pips squeak, although they remain suspicious as to how the party will raise the funds for its spending commitments.

He said: or two may be opting to retire now to take advantage of the capital gains tax retirement reliefs, but generally, people are taking the view that they'll wait and see.

"Labour is only talking about tightening up loopholes. not abolishing concessions altogether. For example, at present if you are facing a large capital gains bill, you can become non-resident for a year and avoid the tax. Labour could make it more difficult for you to do this by, perhaps, demanding that you stay away for three to five years. This would be a different proposition but not a total ban."

Leslie Ferrar of KPMG said that her clients were more worried about the new selfassessment income tax system

Anne Ashworth and Caroline Merrell plan out the

best route for your tax affairs

than the fiscal policies of New Labour. She said: "Clients are anxious that they may not have the information required by the Inland Revenue. The best preparation that any selfemployed person or higherrate taxpayer can make at this current tax year end is to ensure that they have the complete records of their income and expenditure necessary to substantiate any claim to the Revenue."

Under self-assessment, which will require individuals to work out their own tax bills, immediate penalties lie in wait for those who fail to submit their returns punctually or fail to keep adequate records.

Those who are unequal to the task of doing their tax sums for 1996-97 can still ask the Revenue to carry out the calculations. But they must send in their returns by September 30. Others must complete their returns and pay the tax due by January 31, 1998.

There is no evidence of panic-buying of personal equity plans. Investors have apparently been reassured by statements from Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, and his colleagues that Peps and

Tessas would be safe under a Labour government. This week Mike O'Brien,

Labour's City spokesman, appeared to have dismissed fears that higher-rate relief on Peps would be withdrawn. In a letter to The Times, Mr O'Brien called such rumours "illinformed". But amid the general mood of equanimity. the image of Labour as a taxand-spend party persists in some quarters.

lenn Leitch of Ernst & Young said that some of his clients are talking of going abroad. Others are making sure they exploit the inheritance tax reliefs available. especially the potentially exempt transfers, gifts that are free of tax provided that the donor survives for seven years after making the gift.

Mr Leitch said: "If Labour were to make such transfers

taxable it would have an effect on National Lottery winners. It's common for those who win the jackpot to wish to give money away to their relations. They would find themselves taxed for their generosity." Whoever you expect to win

consider some tax savings.
Points to consider include: ■ Use up all personal allowances. Income-producing assets, such as savings accounts, can be transferred between

cleaning. The end of the tax

year is always a good time to

husband and wives tax free. Each person is allowed to earn £3,765 free from tax in the 1996-97 tax year. Spouses without paid employment are unlikely to be using this allowance. Invest the maximum in per

sonal equity plans. You can put £6,000 in an ordinary Pep each year, and £3,000 in a single company Pep. For best-buy plans, contact the leading Pep research groups, BESt Invest-ment (0171-321 0100) and Allenbridge (0171-409 1111).

If you already have a pension plan, pay in the maximum amount. You can contribute from 17.5 per cent to 40 per cent of your annual earnings to a personal pension according to your age. If you have failed to make use of your reliefs in the past, the Inland Revenue allows you to carry forward six years' worth of reliefs.

Bed and breakfast shares to use up your annual capital gains exemption of Ep.300. Bed-and-breakfasting involves buying and selling shares, usually overnight, to show a capital gain or a capital loss. Use the inheritance tax concessions, especially the potentially exempt transfers.

For more hints read the Ernst & Young Tax Saver's Companion, published by John Wiley & Sons, price

## IR may be charging a day too far

that the Inland Revenue is charging those who pay their tax bill late, an extra day's interest because of a computer error. About 1.5 million people were due to make the first payment under the new self-assessment rules by the end of January. Nearly one third of those due to pay failed to make the end of January deadline. Among them was Steven Kirby, an accountant from Bournemouth who

5 145

sent in his bill in good time. However, Mr Kirby's payment did not reach the Revenue until February 2 To his consternation, the Revenue sent him a bill for 76p - equivalent to three days' interest at 8.5 per cent on the £1,100 due. Mr Kirby was unable to obtain an explanation from his local tax office. He said: "It

er error, you should not be charged interest for January

31, the deadline date. The Revenue claims that even though the statement sent to Mr Kirby implied that the interest was charged until February 2, it also covered February 3. Only one million from the total of 1.5 million billed under the self-assessment rules managed to make payments by January 3L

ly escaped payment because their tax affairs have changed since the first notice for pay-ment was issued by the Revenue at the end of last year. Others may have simply failed to make the payment because they do not understand the rules, or they could be under the impression that if they were only slightly late

with their payments they do not have to pay any interest. Unfortunately, those who fail to make the deadline will rack up interest at a rate of 8.5 per cent - interest will be added on a daily basis. Self assessment effects the self-employed, partners, some higherrate taxpayers and others who have complicated tax affairs. Eventually, 8.5 million people

any people will now Some may have legitimatebe receiving statements of account from the revenue giving details of payments and any interest that may be due. Even if the interest is only a few pence, late payers will be charged. Previously, the Reve-nue waived interest if it was under £35. Accountants are urging those going through

will come under the rules.

self-assessment to check their statements carefully.

Errors made by the Revenue in sending out the original self-assessment statement of account forms mean many people did not receive notification of the amount they had to pay. After pressure from accountants, the Inland Revenue agreed to waive the interest payment for those in this position. However, interest is still being shown for

these people Martin Donn, of Blick Rothenberg, said: "There ought to be a de minimas amount of interest collected." He added that many of those about to pay under the self assessment rules were used to paying their cheques a little later than the final date.

CAROLINE MERRELL

WEEKEND MONEY

is edited by Anne Ashworth

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## Prepare for Labour squalls

ver the years, we have become blase about by-election results. Labour's big win in Wirral South early yesterday is different. It does not prove that Labour will win the general election in eight weeks' time. But this makes Labour the betting man's choice. Those who fail to order their affairs on the assumption that Labour will have a clear majority will have noone to blame but themselves.

The trouble is, inevitably, that it is hard to act determinedly if you do not knew what contingencies you should be planning for Investors, in particular, have been told about lots of things that Labour does not plan to do, but left with no clear impression about what changes Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, actually has in mind.

The sensible response to uncertainty is the boy scout approach. Put you affairs in good order. If there are things you have been meaning to do, it might be as well to do them before Gordon Brown rushes into his first Budget, which could come in June. These are mainly routine bits of good housekeeping that tax planners tout before any Budget.

If you have capital gains, consider realising them to the extent of the tax free allowance in both years. Labour might cut the allowance, but should not do so retrospectively. Existing invest-ments could usefully be sheltered in Peps, for which two years' allowances will be available, even though the

advantages may well be diluted. Those who have capital they wish to pass on should use the available allowances before a Brown Budget, in



case they are not there afterwards or have been caught up in some selective wealth tax. Even those who can choose their date of retirement should consider making the decision before a summer Budget Useful allowances might vanish.

Aside from uncertainty, the financial markets do not fear Labour in the old way. That is a triumph for the hard work put in by Messrs Blair and Brown and, particularly, by some of the junior Shadow Treasury team. Labour has convinced the City that it will not throw away inflation gains, and that it aims to be fiscally responsible from the start. rather than, as in the old days, a couple of years into a socialist government.

This is not, however, as simple as it seems. Assume, for a moment, that Mr Brown is so antious to appear responsible that short-term interest rates are up to half a point higher under Labour for the first year than they would be under the Tories. This would have little impact. since investors would know that it was

meant to be temporary. Labour may, however, wish to join European monetary union in 1999. In that case, it would need to bring down interest rates to stop sterling being psychologically overvalued when rates are fixed. It might think sterling is too high anyway. Investors should not plan for it to stay high.

Tax and spending will therefore be under greater pressure. There are already weaknesses. Mr Brown claims that spending will not go up in the early years, but does not count the extra spending to be financed by a utility tax. This gives a big incentive to finance as much as possible through this levy, as Tories claim. Since tax and spending are budgeted annually, the threatened levy will last for several years and the instalments may add up to much more than the markets have discounted.

After falling last May utility stocks have shrugged off the tax. Water stocks have outpaced the average. If you want to sell, or at least lighten, utility stocks, do not wait until everyone else does.

he greater general threat is to

dividends, likely to be deemed politically incorrect as an excuse to raise more "hidden" taxes. If Labour effectively stops pension funds and Pep managers from claiming back dividend tax, share prices will fall and investors will have to rethink. This does not look a great time to commit new money to shares. New savers should not rush to take out personal pensions. If tax perks are to be lost, these could have too few attractions to justify such inflexible long-term contracts.

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## Gazumpers may face penalties

azumping moved on to the political agenda this week as Labour promised action to stamp out a practice which has dashed the hopes of thousands of homebuyers. If implemented, Labour's plans could force buyers and sellers to sign binding precontract agreements imposing stiff financial penalties for withdrawing for no good reason.

drawing for no good reason.

As house prices continue to rise, more sellers are returning to reneging, 1980s-style, onverbal agreements and accepting higher offers from other prospective buyers. Under the English housebuying system, nothing is binding until contracts are exchanged.

This can be several months after prospective buyers first make their offer and after they have incurred the costs of legal fees, surveys and mortgage fees. This could amount to more than £1,000 on a typical sale, according to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). If the seller gazumps, the buyer has no financial redress. Widespread demand for action on gazumping during the last boom led to nothing and petered out as the recession hit.

Now campaigners want compulsory agreements to complete the deal between buyers and sellers. Existing agreements, signed by a tiny minority, are voluntary and have so far failed to make much impact, although they have the support of the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA). These are mainly "lock out" contracts where buyer and seller agree to complete within a certain time

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during which neither can consider other offers.

Sara McConnell on moves towards binding contracts in house sales

the NAEA's chief executive, said: "We now need statutory agreements. This is our chance to bring about change to the current system." He added: "Twenty or 30 years ago it was My Word is My Bond. Now human nature has come to the fore and the temptation to gazump needs to be curtailed."

Labour's proposals, published this week in a consultative document, stop short of insisting that the anti-gazumping measures it outlines should have statutory force. But Frank Dobson, Shadow Environment Spokesman, said: "Our view is that the measures need to be legally binding but this is one

reason why we are consulting."

The Labour discussion paper, No to Gazumping, outlines a number of possible measures of which the favourite is a costs guarantee. Both sides would sign a pre-contract agreement. If either side withdrew without good reason, it would have to meet any costs the other side had incurred. Good reasons for withdrawing without incurring compensation would include either side being caught in a

chain which broke down.

The paper says: "This [the costs guarantee] would not stop gazumping but it would ensure the 'jilted' partner did not have to bear the costs. So it would act as a deterrent to gazumping while not imposing unduly rigid controls on the market." This would not need big changes to existing law.

The agreement could operate with buyer and seller both putting down a pre-contract deposit, returnable if the deal went through. If if did not, the 'jilted' party could claim costs from the other side's deposit.

The costs guarantee agreement is similar to a voluntary anti-gazumping agreement launched last week by the RICS. But this agreement levies extra financial penalties on buyers, who will have to pay compensation at 5 per cent a year above bank base rate on the purchase price during the period between signing the agreement and withdrawing. Both



## Dream dashed and £500 down the drain

N ish and Arti Patel thought they had found their perfect first home last month. Their offer of £117,000 on the three-bedroom house in Edgware, north London

They arranged their mortgage and sent a surveyor to do a housebuyer's report. The bombshell came the day after the surveyor had been.

The seller had been offered an extra £7,000 and
would not sell to the Patels
unless they matched it.
They have been forced to
withdraw, losing nearly
£500 in survey and search
fees. Mr Patel said: "Everything was going smoothly.
He took the property off the
market. We have no comeback now and the vendor
hasn't lost anything. The
money is bad enough but it
is also the emotional knock
as well".

Many people in the Patels' position would already have incurred legal fees as their solicitor began the conveyancing. Fortunately the Patels' solicitor is a family friend. But they cannot escape paying £108 in search fees and £380 for the surveyor's report.

Patrick Bunton, of

London & Country Mortgages, who is arranging the
Patels' mortgage, said: "We
are finding in London particularly that gazumping
has returned. It's not just
certain types of property,
it's the quality of property
which matters. There's
more demand for quality
property."

London & Country is

London & Country is advising prospective buyers to "arm themselves to the teeth" with a ready organised mortgage offer, so that they can move quickly when they find the property they want.

buyers and sellers will have to pay the other side's costs if either withdraws, unless the property turns out to have defective title, a survey reveals defects or the property is damaged, for example by fire, before contracts are exchanged.

contracts are exchanged.
Kate Alcock, chairman of the RICS agency practice panel, said: "This is another shot in our armoury. But the difficulty is always to persuade the seller to sign an agreement in a strong market and the buyer to sign in

a weak market." Many English homebuyers yearn for the certainty of the Scottish system of sealed bids where the contract is binding once the bid has been accepted. Labour's document raises the possibility of this system being adopted in England. But it adds that buyers often incur more initial costs. for example, surveys, without getting the property in the end. They could also find themselves saddled with big bridging loans if they cannot sell their home.

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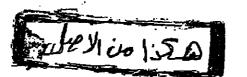
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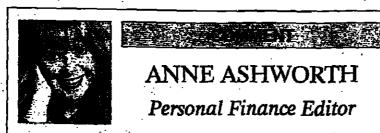
## Tragi-comedy at the Inland Revenue

ings have littered the introduction of the self-assessment income tax reforms. The way in which the Inland Revenue lurches from error to error is reminiscent of a silent comedy where one calamity leads to another. In place of bulky Oliver Hardy in his bowler, we have tubby little Hector the Taxman, selfassessment's frontman.

The first self-assessment deadline has been surrounded with problems that are more than just teething troubles. About one million taxpay ers were due to pay the first half of their 1996-97 tax bills on January 31.

However, thousands were unable to do so because they had not received the statement of account outlining their liability. At first, the Revenue insisted that they would be charged interest on the overdue tax, even though it had failed to prepare their bills. This show of defiance was followed by a climbdown.

As we report on page 33, it now appears that some of those who did



receive statements of account and submitted their cheques by the deadline are also being charged interest. but with effect from January 30. The reward for prompt payment is a dem-

and for one day's extra interest. Whether this overcharging is the result of a computer error is unclear. However, it scarcely inspires confidence in the Revenue's systems. It also poses the question of how these systems would cope if Labour were to win the election and call, as it has promised, a snap summer Budget. Some predict that changes in allowances and reliefs would overwhelm the Revenue's resources, making it

even less capable of resolving the selfassessment confusion.

Taxpayers should certainly heed the accountants now saying that the most important piece of 1996/97 tax year end planning advice is to ensure that all their income and expenditure records are in order. Be prepared for self assessment because Hector the Taxman may still be falling down on

Race handicap

SCOTTISH AMICABLE'S suitors have been reduced to a trio, Abbey National, AMP and the Prudential. While they serenade the object of

their desires, policyholders are left to

At the beginning of this year, Scottish Amicable was an unalluring insurer with uninspiring performance. Suddenly it has turned into the sector's diva, worth £2 billion.

The race to seize this prize is also becoming more intriguing, with the Australian AMP turning into a serious contender.

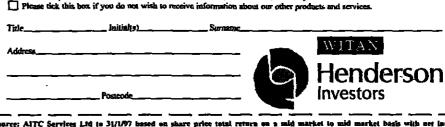
But, in spite of the excitement of the spectacle, policyholders are still being excluded from essential information. They are not being told which of the three is offering the best payouts today and which will ensure the best returns on policies tomor-

With-profit policyholders at other mutual insurers, including the Norwich Union, should be concerned by this cold shouldering of Scottish Amicable customers. Other mutuals could now be takeover targets. But their policyholders will have no say over the long-term control of their

> **Sunday Times** & Fidelity.

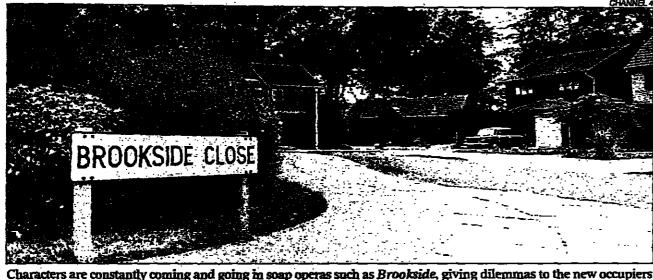


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. Tax assumptions may change if the law changes and the value of tax relief will de on investors is the name under which Henderson Financial Management Limited and ent Limited (both regulated by IMRO and the Personal investment Authority) and

Adam Jones on how to deal with previous occupier's creditors



Characters are constantly coming and going in soap operas such as Brookside, giving dilemmas to the new occupiers

## Return to sender,

ing what to do with mail addressed to a previous occupant faces a dilemma, even if the former owner or tenant has left a forwarding address.

When it's clear that the mail is from solicitors, a court, a unpaid creditor, the "do you open it? dilemma is heightened. These letters can range from a simple request for payment to a notification that miliffs will be visiting.

The Post Office says it is an offence to open someone else's mail only if you are doing it out of malice. And the person to whom the mail is addressed must prove it has been opened in bad faith

Obviously, someone opening a previous occupant's mail when there is a genuine worry that the contents might impact on their life would be acting in good faith. When you have the name and address of the per-

the next day or so.

ty aiming to educate on money matters, says they can legally enter if they see an open window. Since they can't barge their way in, one ruse involves asking the occupant if they can show them something indoors. When they have been invited

Mr Tondeur says a previous permant's bad debis can mistakenly affect your own credit rating, making lenders less likely to approve your borrowing requests. The best policy is to check your file by writing to the agencies. You must enclose a cheque or postal order for £1. plus your full name and addresses for the past six years.

Equifax Europe (UK): Dept IE, PO Box 3001, Glasgow, G81 2DT.

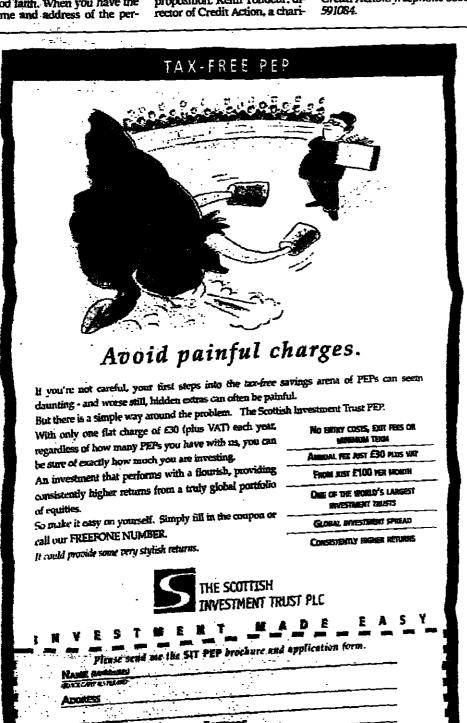
CCN Group: Consumer Help Service, PO Box 40, Nottingham, NG7 2SS. Credit Action: freephone 0800

## address unknown ny householder decidyou would be well advised to write to them.

If there are a lot of creditors you can photocopy a standard letter. Then, in each case, you should add the reference number used by the court, the letter should say when you moved in and that you have no connection with the previous accupant. Send back the origi-

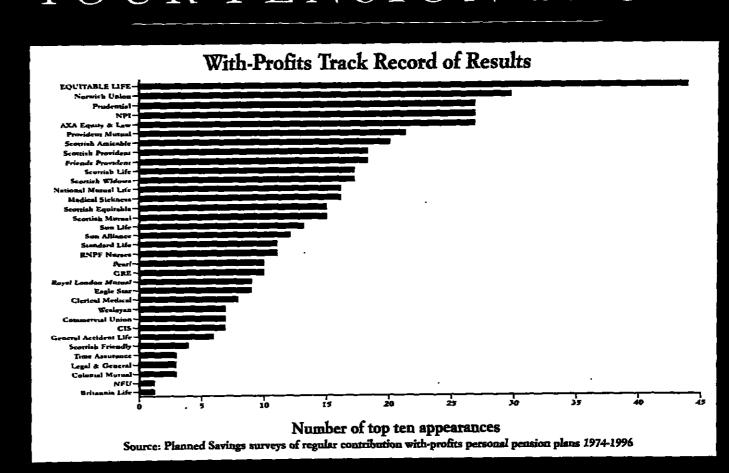
nal document, but keep a copy. If the letter is a last-ditch request for payment - probably a notice from the court saying bailiffs will be visiting you should also telephone to make sure nothing happens in

County court bailiffs might ask you to prove your identity with a TV licence if they knock on your door looking for someone else. However, private bailiffs can be a different proposition. Keith Tondeur. di-



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## WHICH COMPANY WOULD YOU CHOOSE YOUR PENSION FROM?



Many people put good investment performance high on their list of priorities when choosing a pension plan. Making sense of competing claims can, however, be a difficult business.

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## Caroline Merrell looks at the result of the Halifax vote and examines the

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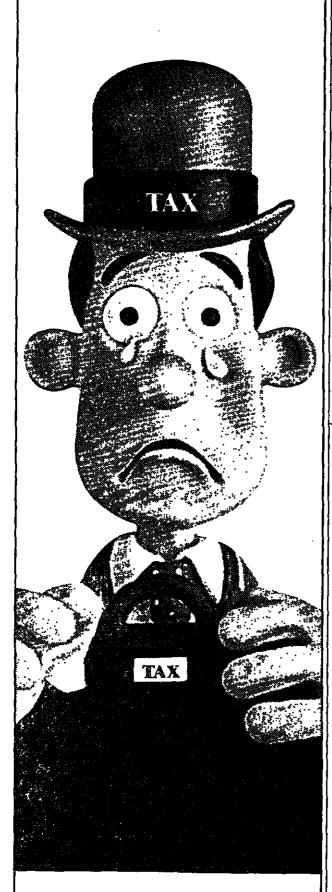
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### THE FACTS ON HALIFAX

The free share payout was estimated in Decem-ber at £1,300 per member. But analysts believe the rise in the prices of bank shares may have boosted this to £1,500.

Members will benefit from two tranches of shares — the basic distribution and the variable distribution. The basic distribution of 200 shares will be available to those who had £100 or more in their accounts on November 25, 1994, and held an account until vesting day. Borrowers will also benefit from the basic distribution.

The variable distribution will be based on the balance above £1,000 on November 25, 1994, and on February 24 this year. The number of shares will be based on the lower of the two balances between these dates. The shares are expected to be worth between 780p and 900p, About 4.1 million members will benefit from the basic distribution only, while 4.6 mil-lion will get both.

■ In spite of the result of the vote, Peter Judge and Serge Laurie, co-founders of the Halifax Action Group, continue their resistance to the flotation. They have accused the board of selling off the society "cheap".

When the society floats, it will have a market capitalisation of about £12 billion, making it the UK's fifth-largest bank.

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## Mutuality is history

are now a step closer to their E1,300 bonuses. At a special general meeting at the Sheffield Arena this week, the building society abandoned its 145-year tradition of mutuality as more than six-and-a-half million people said "yes" to the society's plans to become a bank.

Nearly seven million investing members were eligible to take part in the great Halifax vote. Of these, some 5.2 million cast their votes, with a resounding 5.1 million in favour and a mere 100,000 against.

Opposition among the borrowing members was even more muted. Of the 2.2 million who were eligible to vote. 1.56 million actually voted, of while only 40,000 disagreed.

It remains undear whether the Building Societies (Distributions) Bill now going through Parliament will have any impact on the Halifax's £10 billion flotation. The Bill, which was championed by Douglas French, MP. seeks to ensure that disabled savers are not deprived of their rights.

Thousands of these investors have their cash held in trust by relations or carers, who are the first-named on the account and thus entitled to receive the flotation bonus. There will be no free shares for these disabled savers because they are second-named account holders and therefore excluded

Even if the Bill becomes law, it will not be retrospective. However, Alistair Burt. Social Security Minister, said in Parliament this week that the exclusion of second-named account holders from bonuses should be used to test new laws aimed at ending discrimination against the disabled.

Mr Burt said mysteriously: "I believe someone is trying to test it."

on Foulds, the chairman of the Halifax, said at the special general meeting that he was aware that the plight of disabled savers was "a sensitive and emotive subject". He said: "I know that the question of trustee accounts and joint accounts has come to the fore with disabled savers whose savings are looked after by relatives or carers."

However, Mr Foulds refused to offer solace to those in this position. claiming that they could benefit from some shares via their trustees.

Despite the overwhelming nature of the vote, many members feel they have been excluded from the share distribution because of some technicality. For instance, around 100.000 former Leeds savers were given the wrong informa-tion about their accounts when the society was taken over. Some may have closed accounts or allowed them to dwindle to less than the £100 limit. believing they did not qualify.

Below, The Times interviews some

of those who have missed out.

## Angry at failure to gain a little extra

Rineer from Stroud, Gloucestershire, is furious that his four-year-old son will miss out on a cash bonus in the Halifax conversion.

The Little Xtra Club Liquid Gold Account was set up in August 1993 by Lisa Hamil-ton, Mr Hinchliffe's partner. so that any money sent to his son, Alasdair, could amass in a specific fund to meet his needs only.

Halifax rules say that ac-

counts for minors need to be looked after by a trustee. Because Mr Hinchliffe's partner already held a Liquid Gold account of her own and was a regular user of the Halifax, she was chosen as a trustee.

The family had expected that their son would be enti-

Beale Dobie

Malands, 8121 709 2500

Scotland: 0140, 352 0301

bonus on the balance in his account on December 31, 1996, and were shocked to discover that this would not happen.

Mr Hinchliffe said: "I do not believe that the implications of the arrangement we had were explained at the time of opening the account, nor was any subsequent attempt made to indicate this until the transfer document arrived."

The terms of the transfer document concerning the handling of trustee accounts for investing members under 18 indicate that the balances of the two accounts will be totalled. The effect of this will be to increase his partner's share entitlement by a mere five

"While we have been aware of correspondence in the press concerning the handling of trustee accounts on other building societies, particularly with regard to account holders in retirement homes and with disabilities, we had no idea that this may affect my partner and son until now."

Mr Hinchliffe is particularly unhappy with the interpretation of the Building Society Act by the Halifax in making the trustee the first name on the account. The first named automatically benefit from the shares.

orothy May, meanwhile, is angry about the society's habit of putting the male name first when organising both savings and mortgage accounts.

worker from Eastbourne, Sussex, said: "I have been a borrower with the Halifax Building Society since November 1976, when I took out my first mortgage. My next mortgage was taken in November 1979 until March 1983, when I entered a joint arrangement with my partner, who by nothing more than chance was

the first-named person on the document.

"However, in October 1996.

upon moving, we decided to

take the mortgage in my

name. This arrangement disqualifies us from a share distribution since my partner and not I, was the first named on our previous mortgage." Miss May, who deals with the employment rules on a day-to-day basis believes that the society's habit of putting males first on accounts was a form of indirect discrimination. She said: "Throughout more than 20 years of mortgage borrowing from the Halifax, I have been equally liable for repayments, irrespective of

Deter Hinkley, a retired education adviser from Salisbury. Wiltshire, is bemused by the length of time the Halifax is taking to sort out the discrepancy over his elibility for shares, a case he considers "cut and dried".

my named position on the

mortgage document."

In July 1991 Mr Hinkley invested £3,000 in a Halifax Tessa. In July 1994 this stood at £6.287 and was a little higher than this at the critical date in November 1994.

The Tessa element matured in July 1996 and in order to sustain his qualification for the share bonus, the Halifax advised that he instructed it to turn this into a Solid Gold account immediately the Tessa

Mr Hinkley says: "I sent them a letter of instruction on June 23, 1996, for this to take place, thus preserving the essential continuity requirement of savings with the Halifax. I have at no time made any request for withdrawal, and my account now stands at over £8,000."

The problem occurred when Mr Hinkley's local branch mislaid his instruction letter and it was approximately June



Dorothy May feels she has been discriminated against

27 before they found it. Although the branch admit it was their error, the Halifax has indicated that he does not qualify for the share bonus on the basis of this supposed gap.

"I feel sure that the Halifax are doing their best to avoid including me in the share handout on the basis of this supposed gap," says Mr Hinkley. "This gap evidently does not exist, my savings having been continuous over

the past five-and-a-half years." His letters and phone calls, plus a personal visit to the branch manager, have brought forth only negative replies and a "it will be dealt with in due course circular.

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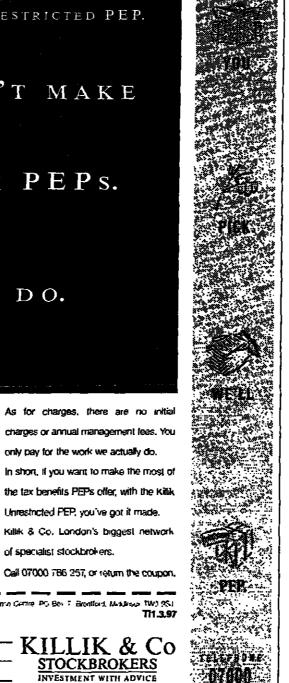
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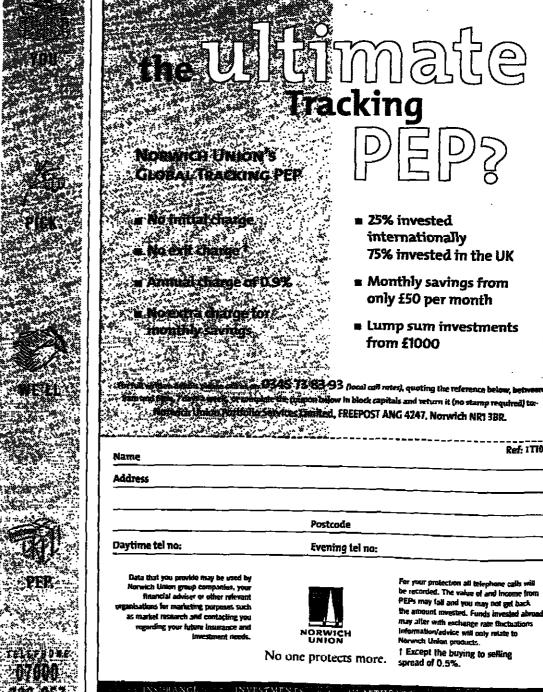
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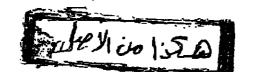
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### benefits in the pipeline for other society members



Northern Rock Building Society, Our Friends in the North, will be distributing windfalls to one million members

### Northern windfalls

The Northern Rock Building Society will next week unveil plans for its £1 billion float. Around one million people are set to benefit from shares. On average, each member will get worth more than E1,000.

The vote to decide on the future of the society will take place on April 15, the same day as the vote to decide the future of the Bristol & West. This society revealed details of its takeover by Bank of ireland this week. It will give its two-year savers an average £1,100 cash payout under the terms of the £600 million takeover.

Those who have been savers with the society for less than two years or who are borrowers will receive 250 preference shares, estimated to be worth El each. The society said it was not yet in a position to say what level of terest the preference shares will pay.

The deal, announced on April 14 last year, is expected to go through on July 28 vesting day.

The society claims that the majority of its members are two-year savers and so will benefit from the cash. However, the average payout for all members will be considerably lower than the average payout from other societies converting to banks.

For instance, each member of the Halifax, will benefit from an average share payout of £1,300, while each member of the Alliance & Leicester will get shares worth £1,000.

The details of the Bank of Ireland takeover are set out in the transfer document that will begin to be sent to the society's one million members on March 7. Two-year savers are defined as those who had £100 in their accounts on April 14, 1996, and held an account continuously from December 31, 1994, until the day before

vesting day. Those that benefit from the preference shares will have access to a free share-dealing facility for the six weeks after the completion of the deal.

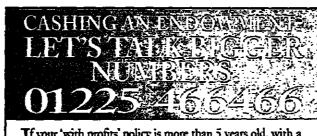
The cash payout will be equivalent to 6.5 per cent of the lower of the two balances

on April 14, 1996, and June 25, 1997, and any other day from yesterday until vesting day. A special general meeting to decide on the future of the society will take place on April 15 at the Royal Bath & West of England Society Showground

at Shepton Mallet. The society will keep its own identity after the take-over. John Burke, Bristol & West's chief executive, said: "The combination with Bank

of Ireland will allow us to continue our strategy of specialising in mortgages, savings and investments." Bristol & West has a flexible

attitude towards disabled people. Mark Llewellyn Slade, of Bristol & West, said it encouraged disabled people to be the first-named on accounts, adding: Those disabled that think they have been excluded can contact the



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### Helen Pridham on a new policy to help overcome resistance to illness cover

# Wealthy — if not healthy

ll-health can strike at any time but the insurance , industry has so far been less than successful in convincing people that they should protect their financial wellbeing against this eventuallity.

In spite of Government cutbacks in state sickness benefits two years ago, only about 15 per cent of UK adults has insurance which will pay out either a lump sum or a regular income when they are seriously ill. One company believes that it has now come up with a product which will overcome the public's resistance.

Cornhill Life, in association with General Health, has launched a new health plan this week which is a combination of critical illness cover and limited income replacement insurance. It pays out in two

stages.

First, you will get a tax-free lump sum immediately upon the diagnosis of one of 28 serious illnesses. If, five years from the original claim, you are still unable to work in a suitable occupation, the policy will start to pay out a tax-free monthly income until you either recover, or reach normal retirement age.

Normally two separate in-

required to provide both a lump sum and an income. although Virgin Direct also brought out a combined product last year and Tunbridge Wells Equitable gives a discount if you buy its two

Linking a critical illness policy with a conventional income protection plan, known as permanent health insurance (PHI), would give you more comprehensive protection as you would be covered against a wider range of illness. You would also receive the income much quicker, after say three or six months if you want. But the cost of two policies is too high

Alan Lakey, an independent adviser of Highclere Financial Services, believes General Health's product is an interesting new addition to the market, although he points out: The initial premiums are competitive but they increase each year with age. The rates are not guaranteed. This is unusual. Most policies have fixed premiums for the first five years at least. They are then reviewable but they do not increase automatically with age." Nevertheless, he thinks the plan may be useful

for many people.

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CORNHILL/GENERAL HEALTH - Instant Health Cover £100,000 lump sum critical illness payment plus £20,000 pa after 5 years, payable until age 65 or prior recovery:

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VIRGIN DIRECT - Survival Plan £100,000 equivalent critical illness cover (payable as lump sum of £31,579 plus guaranteed annual income of £15,792, paid monthly, for 5 years)

Male 30 next birthday Monthly premium £11.89, reviewable (non smoker) after 5 years.

Male 50 need birthday Monthly premium 2128.90, reviewable

TUNBRIDGE WELLS EQUITABLE - Critical Illness Cover + Replacement Income Cover £100,000 lump sum critical illness payment plus replacement income of £20,000 per annum after six months payable until age 65 or prior recovery

le 30 next birthday

Critical Briess cover, monthly premium £17.62. Replacement income: monthly premium £37.17\*
Critical Briess cover, monthly premium £134.53. Replacement \$90.50\* income: monthly premium 289.50\*

to people whose income fluctu-

ates, which can make PHI unsuitable. The application forms for Instant Health cover contains medical tests within the past

questions, including weight, smoking and drinking habits. You will also be asked whether you have had any two years, or any hospital treatment within the past five. If your parents suffered certain health problems, these must also be declared. If your answers are satisfactory a cover note may be issued at the point of sale, with formal acceptance within 48 hours. if queries arise, further information may be sought from your GP. But medical examinations

will be not required. Paul Brandwood, of General Health, says: "The aim is to make the application procedure as straightforward as possible and to accept as many people at standard premium rates as other companies do." The average is 85 per cent of applicants with 4 per cent normally refused this type of insurance, usually due to existing poor health. The rest pay higher premiums because of higher risk occupations.

Brandwood came up with the idea for because he felt that existing critical illness policies did not meet people's needs, as they failed to provide an ongoing

He said: "For this reason it is a flawed product. The average age of claimants on

critical illness policies is 43. If they survive the illness but are unable to work, they still have a lengthy period to go to retirement. A lump sum will tied you over initially but in the longer term you need a replacement income."

However, Martin Campbell of Virgin Direct argues that his company's Survival Plan has already tackled this problem and come up with a better solution. Once a claim is accepted, the Survival Plan pays an immediate lump sum plus a monthly income for the first five years, regardless of whether you return to work or not. If you die, outstanding income goes to your estate. Mr Campbell doubts many

people will actually benefit from the income under General Health's plan. He says Experience indicates that people either recover within five years and return to work. or they die. Statistics for PHI policies show that only 13 per cent of claims last for more than five years and these policies cover a wider range of

Other providers of lump sum critical illness policies, however, will undoubtedly be watching sales of General Health's plan with interest.

### Check the rules before you try to Pep your free insurance shares

. companies will be allowed to transfer the free shares they are given directly into a personal equity plan. the Inland Revenue announced this week.

This puts Norwich Union. due to become a public company this year, on an equal footing with converting building societies. After an earlier ruling by the Inland Revenue it also means that an unlimited number of windfall shares in the life

company can be put into the tax-free shelter of a Pep.

However, there is an anomaly that members need to be aware of. Those who hold the company's policies in trust have been warned that they will not be able to transfer any free shares this year into a Pep. Under Inland Revenue

rules, trustees are barred from holding Peps because they are not the beneficial owners of the underlying shares. This will affect Norwich Union policies which have been put in trust for pensions and inheritance tax planning, for instance.

Charles Levett-Scrivener of Towry Law Financial Planning said: "If they try to Pep these shares, technically they will be committing fraud." Norwich Union said that most qualifying policies are not held in Peps.

However, it welcomed "the fairness of the Revenue's approach", putting insurers and building societies on an equal footing. NU is looking at the possibility of introducing a single-company Pep.

embers of demut- Meanwhile, if you are plan-ualising insurance ning to put your building ning to put your building society shares in a Pep other than that offered by the society, it is essential to get the shares registered in your own name. This should be done when you receive the validation from your society before it floats.

Members of Alliance & Leicester, which converts in April, should receive their forms later this month.

Registration in your name absolutely vital if you are expecting to receive free shares from more than one building society. It will allow you to put all the free shares in a general Pep which can hold equitites.

f you are a regular saver with a general Pep al-ready you should considsuspending your payments this month. In addition, you should check the status of your general Pep. Many general Peps can only hold collective funds such as unit and investment trusts. Although Pep providers are applying to hold direct equities to cater for the demand from building society members, most are unsure about their status.

If your Pep cannot hold the free shares, you could miss out on an important opportunity. Even worse, if you did transfer your shares. e plan could be ruled void the Revenue. However. Fidelity, Henderson, L&G. M&G, Perpetual, S&P and Mercury have general Peps that can hold your shares.

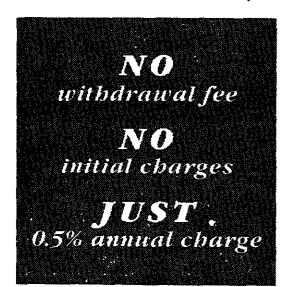
GAVIN LUMSDEN

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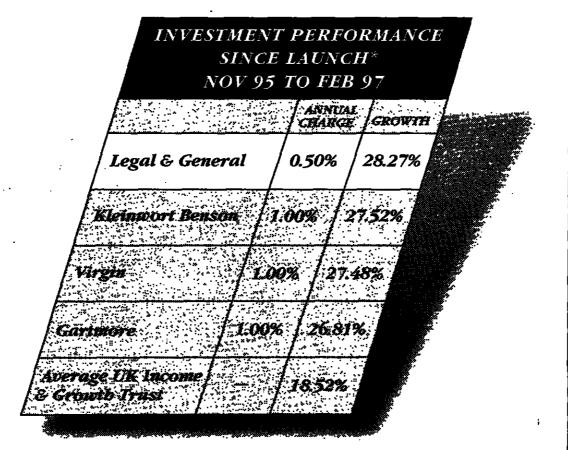
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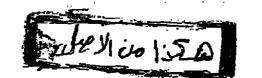
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# Flexibility is the key word

Tlexible mortgages are now offered by a growing band of lenders, standing conventional loans on their heads. Not only do they actively encourage early repayment, they also allow you to vary monthly payments.

Some will arrange a payment "holiday" if you are planning a career break. Even more innovatively, some schemes will let you withdraw overpayments later, effectively turning the mortgage to a high-

interest savings account.
The first flexible mortgage was launched by the Bank of Scotland in 1995, quickly followed by Yorkshire Bank and Stroud & Swindon and Market Harborough building societies. The latest to join is Scottish Widows.

They best suit the self-employed and people whose pay includes a performance-related element. If this is used to make overpayments, big savings are possible over the long term. For instance, a borrower paying £353 a month on a £50,000 mortgage with Mortgage Trust could add a £1,500 bonus every year and reduce a 25-year loan by it years and two months, saving £27,523 in interest charges. Alternatively, the borrower could increase the monthly payment by £100 and pay off the loan 10 years and three months early, saving £25.635 in interest.

Combined with an interestonly mortgage the result is even more enticing. A borrower with Stroud & Swindon intending to pay back a £60,000 loan after 25 years with a Pep or an endowment. could pay £100 a month on top of the interest, pay off the loan after 21 years and five months and keep all the policy when it matures.

However, you don't just have to pay off the mortgage. Most of the schemes will allow you to borrow back your additional payments if you to need to buy a car, take a holiday or pay school and university fees, for example. The self employed can earmark the extra money for future tax provisions and earn the extra interest in the meantime. Higher earners could also shelter the money

AMN

Mortgage does not have to be a

millstone around

your neck, says

Gavin Lumsden

market. This way your money works for you in two directions. Phillip Cartwright of London & Country, a mortgage broker in Bath, says: "Many borrowers keep large sums of money in a building society or bank account where the return is abysmal, often about 2 per cent net. However, if this money was paid off a flexible mortgage they would receive an effective net return of the mortgage amount, typically 7.25 per cent. For higher-rate taxpayers this equates to a 12 per cent gross return on what is

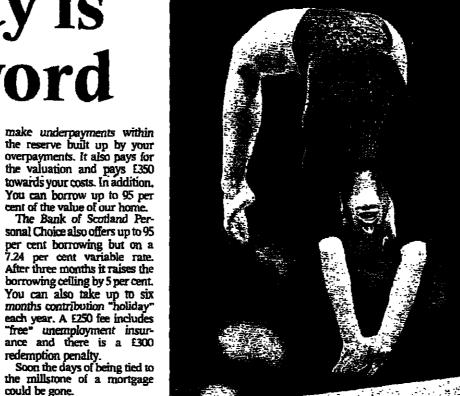
The Scottish Widows Flexible Mortgage currently has a 6.73 per cent variable rate but insists on a minimum overpayment of £2,000 a year. It allows you to borrow up to 80 per cent on the value of your property and provides a cheque book that you can use to withdraw minimum hump sums of £1,000 a month. There is a £100 fee.

effectively instant-access

The Stroud & Swindon Building Society has a 7.25 per cent variable rate but allows you to borrow 85 per cent against your home. There are no restrictions on overpayment and withdrawals start at £500, although you can only take six in any one year. However, its biggest attraction is a 3 per cent cash advance rebated over three years, which means firsttime borrowers can take money even if they have not made an overpayment.

For a £295 fee Market Harborough Building Society offers a similar deal to Stroud & Swindon but adds accident and sickness insurance until September and three-year building and contents insurance.

At 6.49 per cent, Legal & General's Flexible Reserve currently has one of the lowest variable rates among the flexibefore phasing it into the stock ble lenders. It allows you to



	Fee £	Rate %	Max LTV %	Loen size	Lump sum withdrawals	Redemption penalty
Bank of Scotland 0800 810810	250	7.24	95	£15-280k	min £500-max 12 per annum	£300¹
Furness BS 01229 824560	Liji	7.25	75	to £150k	min £1,000-max 6 per annum	nii after 6 months²
Legal & General Mortgage Serv. 21372 364444	UiJ	6.49	95	£35-250k	min £500-£10 chrg per withdrawal alter first 4	υĝ
Stroud & Swindon 0800 618112	nil	7.25	85	£30-500k	min £500-max 6 per annum	n <b>ii</b> 4

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For example, on an estate of £600,000 (including house, contents, personal effects, stocks and shares, bonds, trusts, cash, life assurance and any inheritances) the Exchequer stands to be an equal beneficiary. If there were three children each would receive almost £150,000 but the Exchequer would take £154,000.

And it gets worse; above £215,000\* the rate is a flat 40%. At Towry Law we can help you make plans to

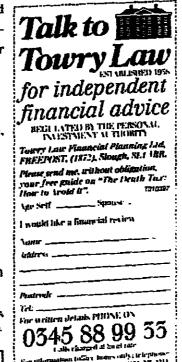
reduce your liability and pass on your accumulated wealth to your chosen beneficiaries.

Now think for a mument, LH.T. does not just apply to the very rich, it applies to everybody with assets above

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think: I must get in touch with Towns Law today. Sode, herels and buses of and relich

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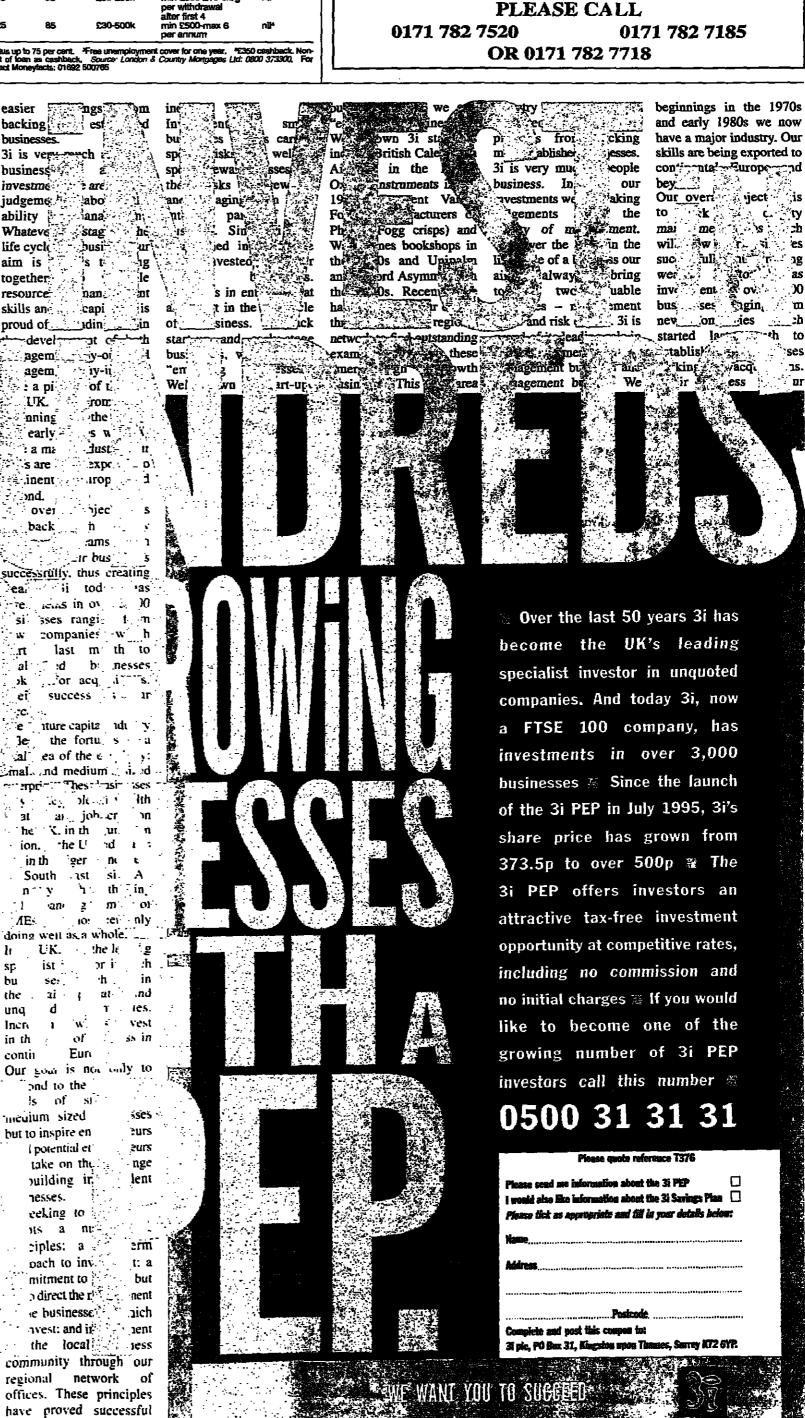
outside the UK. They have

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of the venture capital

- efforts

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3i pic is regulated in the conduct of investment business by SIB. The tax reliefs mentioned are those that currently apply. The levels and basis of taxation can change. The value of reliefs from taxation depends upon individual circumstance The value of shares held within the plan and therefore the value of your plan can decrease as well as increase. You may not get back the amount you originally invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance.

ivorced couples should be able to split pension rights as part of a "clean-break" financial settlement in just over three years' time, if government proposals published this week become law.

Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, Pensions Minister, said this week he was confident that the plans, outlined in a White Paper, would make it onto the statute book, despite the forth-coming general election. He predict-ed that the changes would become law by April 2000 at the latest.

But those who divorce before the changes take effect will not be able to claim a clean-break pension split. Instead, a share of the pension will be "earmarked" for them within their exspouse's fund. Not only will such people have to wait for their former partner to retire (keeping track of job and address changes) but they will lose the pension if their ex-spouse dies first. For those divorcing after 2000, insurance companies believe most exspouses will want to transfer their

## Pension rights to be split in clean-break divorce proposals

personal pension of their own. John Bowman, director at Commercial Union Life, said: "It is unlikely that after divorce the respective pension funds will provide each with an adequate income. The original pension holder - often but not always the man - will often be able to increase contributions to their pension but this is not currently an option for non-working spouses."

He favours government intervention to allow spouses to top up their part of the pension, whether they are working or not. Under the proposals:

£3,132

Income unit trusts - £1,000 invested over 5 years

Source: Micropal - Offer to bid, net income reinvested to 1.2.97.

\*UK Equity Income Sector. \*\*UK Equity & Bond Sector

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pension rights built up by your exspouse in a company, personal or state earnings related scheme at the time of the divorce.

■ If your former partner has a pension with a private sector employer, or a personal pension, you should be able to transfer your share either to a personal pension of your own or to your own employer's scheme. Alternatively, you can become a member of your exspouse's company scheme. Schemes will be expected to set up special categories of membership for holders of split pension rights.

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investment in the Trust has more than trebled in

value, as the chart shows.

afford to overlook.

. THE STARS

■ But if your ex-spouse is a member of a public sector scheme, you will not normally get the option to transfer your share out. You will have to hold it within the scheme.
■ It will be up to pension scheme managers to decide how to handle split pension cights and to inform

split pension rights and to inform you accordingly. They will have to tell you how much the pension is worth if you leave or transfer it. You will have to meet most of the costs of

■ You will get your pension when you reach your normal retirement age, regardless of how old your former partner is. You will get the same benefits as any other member of the scheme you are in. You will not get a full tax-free lump sum. The Government argues the total lump sum to you and your ex-spouse should be the same as he or she would have got without the split.

> SARA MCCONNELL AND MARIANNE CURPHEY

# Feet-up time or soldier on?

A consultant

has a difficult

dilemma

says Sara McConnell

ome people have to give up work early. Others want to give up but have to work on until retirement age. But others reach 65 and feel no desire to put their feet up. Instead they carry on working. The question is, where does this leave pension arrangements? Alan Coldicott, a reader of Bournemouth, writes:

"I am at present semi-retired is a management consultant but apart from my state pension I have not yet taken my employer's pension nor the two person-65 and propose to take these pensions in April.

"The total income from the three sources — my employer, the State and personal pensions - will more than cover my outgoings and I may well wish to continue my self-employed status for a year or two. in these continue to make further pension provision, particularly as my "retirement income" will place me in the 40 per cent tax bracket? If so, will the amount I am allowed to reinvest be related to my total income from pensions and consultancy or simply as a percentage of my earned consultancy income?"

plies: To take your two questions in order: as long as you have earned income, which you will from your consultancy work. and have not exceeded Revenue limits on contributions, there is nothing to stop you continuing to put money into a pension. You can have as many personal pensions as you like provided your overall contributions do not breach Revenue limits. You cannot 'recycle' income from a pension into building another pension. Only earned income can be used to fund pensions.

"But these answers raise further issues which you should

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PENSIONS

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consider before deciding whether to take the pension you have built up in April as you propose. You can defer taking a personal pension until you are 75. Your employer will allow you to defer until you are 70. Steve Bee, head of pensions at the Prudential, says you may do better to leave

some or all of your funds where they are for the moment if you can afford to, adding to them with contributions from your consultancy income.

There are several advantages to this. Your pension funds will continue to be invested and gains will roll up taxfree. If you leave one or more of your personal pensions in place you will not have to pay set-up charges for a new pension, which are heaviest in the early years. You will have to use most of the fund from your personal pension to buy an annuity giving you a guaranteed income when you retire. Annuity

rates are better the older you

are. And if you are a 40 per cent

taxpayer, you would be paying tax at this rate on pension income. By contrast, you will get tax relief at your highest rate on any extra contributions you put in and can use unused relief from previous tax years.

"One strategy you have con-sidered is transferring your personal pensions to your employer's pension scheme on the ground that the inflation proofing and widows' benefits offered by the employer will be extended to your personal pension funds. Such a move would be a generous one on the part of your employer, according to Mr

Your strategy is partly driven by wanting a good pension for your wife if you die before she does. But you can ask for pension funds to be structured so that she gets an income of two thirds of your pension if you die by taking smaller pensions for both of you during your lifetime."



Pensions poser: Alan Coldicott may want to work on

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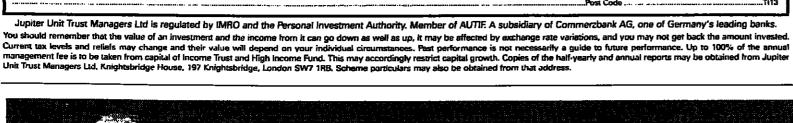


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# The new M&G High Income Investment Trust PEP 1996/97

The new M&G High Income Investment Trust P.L.C. PEP aims to achieve an above average and increasing income on your investment while at the same time seeking to achieve capital growth. Investment trusts are an ideal stockmarket investment, offering good long term performance and spread of risk.

Personal Equity Plans are an attractive method of investing tax free.

By combining the two, you could be making the most of your investment potential.

Your PEP questions answered
The M&G PEP allows you to invest up to £6,000 in both this the current year and the 1997/98 tax year, it is designed for people who are looking for a good long term investment free of income tax and capital gains tax. You are eligible to invest if you are over 18 and a UK resident. If you have already taken out a 1996/97 general PEP with a company other than M&C. you can still invest up to £6,000 in the 1997/98 PEP.

1. What are the investment objectives of M&G High Income tment Trust P.L.C.? The objectives of M&G High Income Investment Trust P.L.C. are to achieve

an above average and increasing income over the twenty year life of the Company, while at the same time seeking to achieve capital growth. Full details are included in the mini prospectus. What are the charges?

No initial charge and no withdrawal fee

For investments in Package units or Income and Growth units there will be no initial charge to pay on your investment and no withdrawal fees either. The Trust is managed by M&G Investment Management Limited for an annual fee of 1% plus VAT. If you choose to invest through The M&G PEP there will be an additional armual charge of 0.25% plus VAT.

How can I invest in M&G High Income Investment Trust PLC. through The M&G PEP? You can choose whether you would like to invest in the Package units

and/or invest in Income and Growth units. Package units - 5.0%\* yield

Package units are designed to offer investors growing income and capital growth over the life of the company. Each Package unit will consist of one zero dividend share, one capital share and one income share. income and Growth units - 6.3%\* yield

If you wish to receive a higher level of income at a greater risk, you should

consider investing in income and Growth units. These consist of one income share and one capital share. The yield is higher than that received on Package units, making them suitable for investors seeking income, but the prospects of capital growth at the end of the trust's life depend on how well it has performed. Income and Growth Shareholders are exposed if the trust fails to grow over its life. At annual compound growth rates of less than 4.45% a year investors in Income and Growth units will not get back all they invested; however, at annual compound growth rates over 5.00% the returns from these units will exceed the returns from Package units. The estimated gross dividend yield at the offer price of 80p is 6.3%

through The M&G PEP. \*The estimated gross dividend yields are based on the manager's projected portfolio as at 31st December 1996.

Package units are priced at 100p and income and Growth units are priced at 80p. The maximum amount that you can invest into The M&G PEP in any one tax year is £6,000. However, provided that you invest during the offer period you will have the opportunity to invest your PEP allowances for both the 1996/97 and 1997/98 tax years. Applications will be accepted in round thousands. There are three ways to invest:

You can invest with a lump sum, by monthly payments, or a combination of the two.

There is no share exchange or PEP transfer facility available because of the time constraints. Lump sum investment

The minimum lump sum you can invest is £1,000, the maximum is 26,000.

 Monthly payments If you choose to invest on a monthly basis, the minimum contribution is

request we shall sell the Shares and pay the proceeds to you on the

£50 per month and the maximum is £500 per month. If you invest monthly

est how may close your Plan at any time I you

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transfer any amount due to us. We shall also retarn any tao babilities of yours under the Plan for which we must account under the

23. TREASURY REGULATIONS AND VOID PLANS

these are required at order to comply with any legal or regulatory

governes by English law 28. COSPENSATION

PEP contributions across tax years, unless you instruct us to stop by ticking the box in section 1 of the 1997/98 application form which appears later on In this newspaper. 2. Lump sum and monthly payments You may invest a lump sum and add to it each month with a monthly

contribution. If you wish to do this, you should send a cheque for the hump

sum amount for either tax year and complete the Direct Debit Instruction

by direct debit, your first investment will be collected and invested on 16th April 1997 at the market price ruling at or about 2.30pm on that date.

We are only offering the monthly payment option for the 1997/98 tex year

If you decide to invest in this way you will not have to complete further application forms for future tax years as we will automatically continue your

There will also be a stamp duty cost of 0.5% where applicable. Your payments will continue to be collected on the third Wednesday of

each month by M&G unless you instruct us, in writing, to stop.

for future monthly payments on the 1997/98 application form which appears later on in this newspaper. 4. When will my first payment be made?

L For the 1996/97 tax year Lump sum payments — Chaques and banker's drafts will be presented on 7th March 1997 and your Package units and/or Income and Growth units will be renounced into The M&G PEP on 17th March 1997.

E. For the 1997/8 tax year Lump som payments – All cheques and banker's drafts will be presented on 7th March 1997 and Package units and/or income and Growth units will be renounced into The M&G PEP on 7th April 1997.

Monthly payments - The first payment will be collected and invested on 16th April 1997 at the market price ruling at or about 2.30pm on that date.

5. Can I add to my Investment in the future?

fes, you can top up your PEP by cheque which must be received at M&G by the third Wednesday of the month, provided that the total amount invested per tax year does not exceed your £6,000 PEP allowance. No lump sum top ups will be permitted for the current tax year after the launch period has closed. Lump sums will be accepted after 7th April

1997. You can increase your monthly payments at any time by notifying us If we receive your cash subscription earlier than the third Wednesday of the month, we shall hold the money in a client money account outside

your PEP until that time. Can I reinvest the income from my PEP?

Yes, you can, income will automatically be reinvested, unless you tick the box in section 2 on the application form. Reinvesting the income from your investment could significantly enhance its value over time. If, later on, you decide that you would like to receive the Income, simply write to us and we will be happy to arrange this for you.

Any income and tax repayments will be automatically relevested unless you tick the box on the application form to indicate you wish to receive income from your PEP.

How do I arrange to receive tax free income? If you wish to receive tax free income from your PEP, tick the box in section 2 of the application form and details will be sent to you. To receive income from your PEP, you must have at least £500 invested. Dividends will be paid quarterly on 25th August 1997, 25th November 1997, 25th February 1998 and 25th May 1998, reclaims will be paid shortly afterwards.

8. Can I take money out of my PEP at any time? Yes. You can sell all or part of the Package units or Income and Growth units held in your PEP by sending us written instructions. There is no withdrawal fee to pay. If you instruct us to sell we will send you the

your instructions before 12.30pm, the units will be sold at the market price about 2.30pm that business day, instructions received after 12.30pm will be treated as having been received on the following business day. For further details see the PEP Terms and Conditions below.

 What documentation will I receive and when?
 Once your application has been received at M&G House we will send you a confirmation of receipt within five business days. You will also receive confirmation of the details of your PEP in our formal acknowledgement. If you invest in the 1996/97 M&G PEP you will receive this in March. If you

invest in the 1997/98 M&G PEP you will receive this in April. You will receive half yearly statements of your PEP prepared to 30th June and 31st December each year. You should receive these within 25 business days of the end of the period.

You will also receive an annual and half yearly Report and Accounts of M&G High Income Investment Trust P.L.C. when they are published. Prices of Package units and income and Growth units will be quoted in the

10. How do I apply?

i. Complete the PEP application form(s) for the appropriate tax

indicate clearly how much you wish to invest, either by rump sum, monthly payments or a combination of the two. Please refer to the notes on the application form to help you.

ii. Make your payment.

Lump sum contributions: Please make your cheque(s) payable to 'Lloyds

Bank Pic a/c M&G Offer', and enclose it with your form. Please send a

separate cheque for each application you con Monitriy payments (1997/98 tax year only): Please complete the Direct

羅. Return your form to: The M&G Offer, The M&G Group, PO Box 111, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford, CM1 1FD.

 This advertisement is designed for the purpose of giving information.
 The information contained in this advertisement is based on our understanding of current law and Inland Revenue practice as at 17th January, 1997. Whilst we believe this to be correct, we cannot be held responsible for the effects of any future legislation or change in

interpretation or treatment. Although you are always the beneficial owner of your units, they will be registered in the name of M&G Financial Services Limited, the registered PEP manages.

Your rights as a Planholder will be governed solely by The M&G Personal Equity Plan Terms and Conditions set out in this advertisement. Please keep them in a safe place.

 All M&G PEP holdings are managed as a single Plan. Should you wish to transfer your holdings to another Plan Manager your Plan most be transfered in its entirety.

Cautionary notes The Company has the right to issue additional shares provided that the share price is in excess of the net asset value.

You should always remember that the value of investm down as well as up and that you may not get back the amount you invested. The value to you of the tax benefits of a PEP will depend on as. The value of your capital is not guaranteed. The tax regime of PEPs could change in the future.

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future

M&G do not offer investment advice or make any recommendations regarding investments. We only promote the packaged products and services of the M&G Marketing Group.

(1) Bile, as and our — References to 'we', 'us' and 'our' in these Conditions near MaiG Financiel Services Linded as Plan Manage. 'You and your — 'You' and 'your' mean a Plancider, that is an included who has opened a Plan under these Conditions. ess Day" creams a day on which the London Stock Exchange

is open for business;
"Cash Subscription" means a payment in starting from your own
re-correct by chapter, bank transler, threst debit or from money Conditions" means these Conditions together will usily Plan application forth as from time to time am Crosse Establishment slanding to you in our client account; as these Conditions together with the Personal sty Pian application, form as from time to time emended; rown Employee" rosens a person holding public office under the son and paid out of the public resense of the United Kingdom or

and who may be our associate; "PW" means The Personal Invest

t Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 542 "Phan" means an M&G general Personal Equations with these Conditions; onal Equity Plan held in s in M&G High Income Investment Trest PLC

i paricage und of Shates; | Begeladines" meets the regulations for Personal Equity | Begeladines" meets the regulations in Personal Equity be on 14th Marth 1989 and any other regulations made to time he MM Treesory under the provisions of a 333 and trom time to time by HM Treasory under the provisions of a 33 and to the time by HM Treasory under the provisions of a 33 and Schedule 29 to the income and Corporation Tunes Act 1969, and a 15 of the Teopland of Charpeside Gains Act 1962.

"Near" means a year beginning on 15th April in any calendar year and ending with 5th April in the following year. ending with 5th April in the following year. (3) Where we refer to any stabling provision or regulation this

(3) Where we reser to any sugarany provision or requisitors is includes any impolification or re-machinest which has been much. (4) We have included headings and auth-headings for your purbancic these are not a legally binding part of these Conditions. (5) The PEP application form in part of these Conditions and If the bod office then the application form will have precedence.

2. FOOT MANAGEM.
(1) We are members of the PIA and regulated by the PIA in the conduct of our investment business.

23 We agree to act as Plan Manager in relation to your M&S (3) We shall take your investment objective to be to invest in M&G High prome investment inset P.C. We are emplied to act as principal in transactions with the Plan. t 2 SUBSCHEERS TO THE PLAN

only As an individual you may only substribe to use as Franky Plan to some man them. of Personal Equity Plan in any one Year. You may continue to the to the Plan in following years, subject to Treasury signs and Inland Revenue requirements. Requisitions and Inland Revenue requirements, subject to Treasily Regulations and Inland Revenue requirements.

(2) Machiners subsectificion The yield amount you subscribe to the Fish during any one Year cannot expeed the subscription limit for that

4. NIVESTNERT IN NESS UNIT TRUSTS AND INTESTMENT TRUSTS
where the right in autostitute the full MAG PEP Terms and
Conditions for fleete Conditions. They will allow your Plan to include
units in one or more MAG that Trusts, in addition to Shares. We will
give you reasonable notice of the change, and will send you a copy
of the full Terms and Conditions. They are no more operant than
the full Terms and Conditions. They are no more operant than

the four Terms and Conditions. They are no more onerous than ese conditions. Where you siready have a Plan to which the hall ross and Conditions apply, that Plan and this Plan will become a Terms and Coudhorts Apply, that Plan and any Plan was account a single Plan when we make the substitution under this clause.

SUBSCIPETIONS

(11 Payment mention) You may subscribe to a Plan by making a Cash Subscription – are Condition 1(2) for definition. You may also include its your Plan Shares allotted or allocated to you in the public offer of Shares. To do this you must transfer or renounce your digit to the Shares to us as Plan Markager in accordance with the time content of sealed in the Timesure Permitted form.

ts specified in the Treasury Regulations.

Supplies with a supplier of participation of the supplier of participation of participation of the supplier of participation of the supplier of the (2) Regular reductions Unless application form, we shall take your a collect and invest subscriptions until take your and or and or an arms of the collect and invest subscriptions until take your and or an arms of the collect and invest subscriptions until take your and or arms of the collect and invest subscriptions. capied and investments. South leaves that way describing authoritistics to way describing authoritistics to your Plan exter temporarily or permanently without penalty and without affecting your night to continue your Plan, but you cannot subscribe to a Plan after it has closed (see Condition 22).

PARTS THE PEAN 8. ASSETS OF THE PLAN 11) Components: Your Plan includes your Sharks, Joy Cash Instances, all income and other rights and the benefit of any tax reflet

of respect of the Lights.
(2) Court life shall maintain a sterling client account with an authorised institution within the meaning of the Banking Act we shall credit to this account all each received in the Plan Inc

SCHOOLS, INCOME, THE REPORTMENTS and the proceeds of sale of Springers in accordance with these Conditions. (3) Investing your money We do not retain each water the Plan.
7. RESISTRATION OF INVESTMENTS.

7. RESISTRATION OF INVESTMENTS.
(1) Investments will be registered in our name or, if we so designate, the name of a Nominae.
(2) Subject to Treasury Regulations, you bereby authorise us to issue all such tirrections and instructions to any Nominae as we consider appropriate for the discharge of our responsibilities under these Conditions and you accept that we shall not be responsible for the definition of the Nominae. the defaults of the Hominot.
(3) the shall total, or have beid to our order, of take documents, or

and other north.

10) the may not lead brestments and rights to a third party and we W against the security of any love You will at all times be the beneficial country of the investments

PTOTAL ACCOUNTY YOU ARE the herefacial country, you agree not to dispose of or transfer any interest in such investments or any such rights or cash belances and not to create for have notisticating any charge or can common and not to create for have notated any each rights or security an or over such investments or any such rights or cash heldered thousant, you stay at all times sell or transfer lovestments or brander your Plan in its entirety.

1, 1925.

9. PCC3

(1) Annual Charge We make an Assaul Charge on shares haid in (1) Annual Charge in calculated in 12 the Plan of 14% plan LAT por year. This charge is calculated in 12

installments based on the mid-market value of the Shares at 2.30 per on the first Business Day of each mouth. The charge s

populor quantity in amount or in an apportunity at the time you sail or hander the States.

(2) Whiteel Pears We may write the amount strange in respect of the Made Right Income Interstment Trust PLC and we read the right for interstate any waited fine. IREA Figh income investment trass (content) an associate of ours under PA miles) sums equivalent to such charges, these and expenses are we intent in administrative and other services (authors, sub-

Where providing, we shall deduct letes or other sums the must born the capitacoming to the Plant. If there is essentiated teach held in the Plant to pay lete, we have the right in self-States to that waite and apply the processes of the sale to such payment.

OTS AND YOTHIG REGION (i) . We shall not exemple any voting rights attaching to the Shares. Unites and until you base elected to exemple and ingina yourself and

umers and use you gave except to extract and ingris yoursel are instructed us on the appropriate form of voting assistation.

(2) We shall entangle to send you the aboust reports and activuits of the MASS High income investment first PLC.

(3) You may give us one enoughts option as writing to elect.

(4) You may give us one enoughts option is writing to elect.

(5) You may give us one enoughts option is writing to elect.

(6) You therefore a command in the second to state which is not exercise without information is such that is a very entryform at an information will then enough is such time as very entryform at an

es, conveniente We stud sond you a Plan Statement twice a year crawn up as at 30th June and 31th December, within 25 Business Days of trose dates. The statement will store details of all transcripts in your Pap 13, BEFORMATION FOR PLAN MANAGER

(1) You must provide us with all information which we reasonably request for the purposes of the Plan and, in particular, you must inform us prouply if you change your home address.

(2) You must inform us immediately if you cause to be resident and is procupally to your construction control exercises, motivate inform was learned dealer if your because to be resorbent and or assident in the United Kingdom for text perposes. If you are bent, you must notify us learned attery if your crases to could also be a PPD as a Committee Employee. In order case, you may now turther Ceath Subscriptions to your Place.

u most always send us your instructions or requests in writing and e shall actionwholge bas either grafly or in writing. na communication. Ne operate a written complaints procedure in accordance with P.A. rules. You may address your complaint to us or to the P.A.

es. You day address your cost a 5 dicous arising from 1 16, INVESTMENT OF PLAN INCO ess you elect to be paid the income from your Plan (see Condition

ion 9) and has repayments announcide to the res in your Plan to port ratease or subscribe for further Shares or. end Trust. If any cash balance remains we had carry it torward and add it to future in 7. PAYMENTS OF PLAN BICOME (1) Election You may elect in receive incume destributions and tax daims attributable to the Shares in the Plan provided you restrict us

ots by direct credit to a UK bank or UR building ירוכל אל וה בתולהיו הו בנו בעולבים במנות לי **בתולהים & continue & dimino** ליום

back You may withdraw your previous election. This Champing back you may wanted and come into ener; same back to investing income will come into ener; same since Days after me receive your witten estructions income Days after me receive your witten cathering. To you in fear, tredit mandate storily after we Selves receive the money.

Deductions the may deduct from scarne payments any annual age level under Concions 9.

THE TEXT CLASS WE RECEIVE TO THE TEXT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE TEXT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE TEXT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE TEXT OF T ingerment, ngith and east believes feel a c NG CHANGES TO OR BIDDIG THE PLAN Part to manage commerce to the coupons (the Plant 19. Strytos And Selling Schieds (1). Buylog Shares with Income We stell make all purchases of Shares at or around 2.30 pm on the Business Day of which we

(2) Surplug Shares with Cash Sobsenphones. The deeling day for Shares will be the third Wednesday of each more and the substances Day in any year. It was receive year Cash Schechphon and architectures to acquire shares at any time after 12 30 pm on the dealing day, or before any coping off period allowed by law has expend, we shall hold the cash in a client money account substantial back the deliberation dealers from each time and the new following of the cash in a contract Day and the new following dealers from the out Plan until the next following dealing day

Setting Statres. Provided we receive your written restrictions

before 12.30 pm at our Chebrashord office, art stell sell Stores held in your Plan at or around 2.30 pm on that its sneets Day it your tions string after 12.50 pm we shall treat them as being eined on the next Business Day Vile stad pay you the proceeds of the sale of the relevant Stock Subtrarys sectioned that 20. TRANSFERRING A PLAN (1) Changing Plan Manager You may at any time circuit us in . writing to transfer your store Plan to another Plan Manager who has and Stade Sectioners sectioners date

ming Shares or value from MAS '70; ma, direct us

recently your Shares or to traction chain to the new energer. If you detect as to seal, we produce to the processor of the Pen and transfer the processor of the Seal of the Real and transfer the processor of the seal of the Real Pen and transfer and the Real Pen (3) Thomas were an opened any course the 10 GS (3) Thomas We find 3 give the broads of the matters with the new plan manager. These Conditions will continue to apply to the Part and the baseler is complete and until we have completed all custaming representations and more all behinden.

tions You may हा आंग्रे ज्यान करना था मा नामाना का (1) Their insurrantees that many at any cone other, as in writing to transfer or pay to your the value of all or any of the Shares need at the Plan and any cash believes or other rights in the Plan. On the Plan and any cash believes to other rights in the Plan. On the Plan and Africal as in transfer Shares in you of the another persons from persons. The PEP rules will, passe in another persons or persons. The PEP rules will, passe in anoth to the (3) Sajes if han cust it? so self with the tecture for murren

Cut sectioned table

4. Outstanding less or tax. We may declard from any payment or
tracks any amount due to it. We shall also return any tax lockshees
of yours profer the Plan for which we must account under the

ette reture resits If we cease to act as a Plan Manager if we decide to cease it as a Plan Manager we shall give you reasonable notice in Si Other circumstances the stall ove you writer natice of

factifier to you arry cash balances and any other notifs held in the Outstanding fees or tax. We may deduct from any payment or

i**ng closure**. Closure a Plan wit not affect any transactions which have been cubated before the closure process began. Our usual Conditions, will continue to apply during the custure and until re trave contributed all outstanding transpartners and met all liabilities.

es, ingusting ingrouperious and your pures. He steel notify you if the Pray has or will become word because if has failed to sensity the Treasury Regulations. These Conditions will continue to be enforceable unless, and until the Inland Revenue tripal id under the Treasury Regulations at which time the diagety close. We shall then hold the assets of the Plan

24. DEATH

11. The tax exemptions of the Plan stop on the planholder's death

12. When we are informed of the planholder's death we shall, subject to such formatines as we shall specify at the time transfer the Shares and any cash plannes and any other nights in the Plan, outside Treasury Regulations to be held in the planholder's name pensing registration of their death. We shall not relivest income parasing from such investments but hold if on behalf of the planholder's personal representatives until we can pay it out to them.

3. These Continuous will continue to apoly during the function to the planholder's personal representatives and until we have completed at outstanding transactions and met all listwiftes.

24. Test PERETAL.

28. INDEMORITY
for the purposes of this Condition from includes both you and your
personal representatives and five for includes our Normore four
agree to indemnify us and at all times keep to indemnified in respect
dial lightlighes taxes costs charges and expenses we inclur (super)
by our own negligence in setting up administering and docsing the

25. Variation and Amendment of These Conditions in addition to it, above we may from time to time make

you reasonable notice of such changes as

he event that we cannot meet our financial babilities to you, you ted to apply for compensation under the investors' is Scheme established under the Financial Services Act

PLEASE READ AND SIGN SECTION 3 OPPOSITE

lam ages 18 years or over Personal Equity Plan in or for the last year to which this application relates, not, where I have arranged to subscribe to the Plan by monthly nione, with subscribe to any other general Personal Equity Plan cultiant readent and ordinarily resident in the UK for tax purposes or

13214(ta) of the Taxes Act (Crown Employees serving overseas) are cased as being performed in the United Kingdom and will entern M&G Fanancial Services Limited if I cease to be so resident and prilingrily (i) The schedulers, which I will read to this Personal Equity Plan. ter I will enterm MAG Ferencial Services Limited promptly of any change

my constances, which discis any if this minimature at to trail my CASE SUGSCHIEBLES. Plan invest meetiments and any other cash in the Personal County Plan. to an impake on my benual any danima to regief from tao in research of Plan

CI CO THY WRITER FROMES IS BRANCHER OF PROY TO ME, ISS DIC USES MAY be. Pan investments initially distributions, rights or other proceeds in respect of such investments or any cash held in the Plan.

### NOTES TO HELP YOU TO COMPLETE YOUR 1996/97 PEP APPLICATION FORM

If you have already taken out a 1996/97 general PSP with a Plan Manager other than M&G do not use this force, You can only invest in The M&G PEP in this offer if you complete an application form The M&G PEP 1997/98. Note 1. Please give your daytime telephone number so that it a query enters in relation to your application form we can attempt to contact you at once and speed they are happy with our standards of administration. If you are happy to take part in this research, please also give your evening telephone number. Where this business has been introduced via an intermediary, M&G will contact this intermediary in respect of any que

Note 2. Your NEWO can be obtained from your employer or your local tax office. one 3. This application and renunciation MUST be for round thousand pounds with a maximum of £6,000, ie £1,000, £2,000, £3,000 etc. (in accordance with Condition 9 of The Terms and Conditions of application set out in the listing particulars dated 17th January 1997.) If you subscribe for more Units than you are legally permitted to renounce into your M&G PEP, the excess units will be held outside your M&G PEP and you will receive a certificate for them. Note 4. Where units are acquired in the market there will also be a stamp duty cost of 0.5% where applicable for regular investment made outside of the offer period. Note 5. The Terms and Conditions of application set out in the listing particulars (see Mini Prospectus) dated 17th January 1997 are varied and supply

a) You authorise Lloyds Bank Pic and M&G Financial Services Limited to take all steps and execute all such documents on your behalf as may be necessary in

his You authorise Linet's Bank Pic to send a document of title for the mumber of units allotted to you to MEG Francise Services Lineted and procure that MEG Francise Services Limited is placed on the register of members of the Company in respect of such units with effect from 17th March 1997.

Your completed application and cheque or banker's draft must be received by 3.00pm on Friday 7th March 1997 at M&G. The M&G ord CM1 1FD.

Issued by M&G Financial Services Limited (Regulated by The Personal Investment Authority). Application Form (You can invest by regular monthly payments if you complete the 1997/98 application form)

## Offer closes 3.00 pm 7th March P36/97 M&G High Income Investment Trust p.l.c.

Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other: Daytime: IMPORTANT: DETAILS REQUIRED BY THE INLAND REVENUE Year application gazzag be accepted without the following infor

Hazironal Instarance (In. (9800) (See state 2 above 8 you cannot locate your MAIO) I wish to lowest to the table of the peer ending 5th April 1997 if you wish to attend and vote at shareholder meetings and to receive additional information sent to shareholders please lick this box. 2 Investment details - Please Indicate below the lamp sum amount you wish to lowest. The maximum you can invest in a general PEP in any one tax year is £6,000 (see note 3 above). PRICE OF UNITS LUMP SUM PRYMENT METHOD AND INCOME OPTION

aparing factual collect (See Mate 3) Lump sunt purposents by chaque or injuster's dealt. Make payable to "Lloyde Bank pic, A/C M&G Offer' ctossed M&G High Income 100p 'A/C payee only'. Cost West 8.0% Note 3 lesses option; if you wish to receive income M&G High Income Package payments from your PEP. Please tick this box 80p and details will be sent to you.

.00 Feb. Viold 8.3%2 for form. The first treatily payment will be collected and invested suiside the siete the 1997/96 PEP and You can innerd by redular 400 offer paried on 18th April, 1997 and will receive the market price railing at or about 2.30pm on that date face note 4 about).

To AMAG Equality Interestment West P.L.C. I irreprinciply offer to subscribe for the amount indicated shows to be invested in Middle in Middle High Interest pressument West P.L.C. on the Yeromand. Conditions of Application and out in the fating perfording spec third Prospectual dated 17th January, 1997. t enclose my chaque or biopher's simplifier his compare station algore. I handly concurse on 17th March, 1997 (subject to invocation before that date, the Delin to MRG Federalal Services Lindest to

hade on my PER. To MEGG Pleasached Secretaries Limited & spicit by make a majorifysion to any outsing MEGG PEP for the lox year sinding Sci. April, 1997 or, if tale not have spich a plan time of which so open an MAG PEP for the law year sending Sin April, 1997. larges that the Personal Equity Pien appoint by the Pien Manager in appointed with this application, will be governed by The MESS PEP Terms and Conditions included in this assert gas appolementant by the terms of this application form and in purifyoir in note 5 about, and 1 agree in the bound by them in 18 respects. Condestant that all any PEP holdings with MAL are conneced as a single Plan and should I wish to handler my haldness to another Plan Manager our Plan must be transferred in its anithers.

( Speciary decisive that to this best of any immunicipes and helici, the shown indomination is true and connect and I make the decisivities and give the authorizations and our populis,

YOU MAY CHEY SUBSCREET TO ONE GENERAL PEP IN ANY ONE TAX YEAR. The application for Units contained in this form cannot be withdrawn. An application, using this form, to open a PEP may be withdrawn by returning the withdrawal slip you will receive with your acknowledgement letter to the Plan Manager at any time prior to 17th March, 1997. Full details and Terms and Conditions are applicable only to this advertisement, You should consult your

independent Financial Adviser, if you have one, before investing, SEND YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO: The MEG Group,

P.O. Box 111, Chekrostory Claff 1FD, who so far as this is an application to open a PEP will hold this form on your

Offer closes 3.00 PM 7th March

Schroders

Are you looking for added growth potential from your PEP portfolio?

Then you should look at the High Growth Option of the Schroder PEP three exciting growth opportunities in a single investment. The High Growth Option is a tempting combination of smaller companies both in the UK and Europe and also the added potential of the fast growing markets of the Pacific.

And with Schroders you know you will be choosing an investment with a first rate track record. In fact, the three Funds which make up the High Growth Option have, between them, turned £6,000 into over £15,000 in just five years.\*

Find out more by calling 0800 002 000 or returning the coupon

0800 002 000 Quoting reference 314

TO: SCHRODERS, CUSTOMER ERVICES DEPT, 02314 FREEPOST, LON 7109, LONDON EC4B 4PD. lease send me my free copy of the

rce: Micropal buybig price to selling price with gross income reinvested from 03.02.92 to 03.02.97 based on £2,250 invested in the Schroder Smaller and European Smaller Companies Funds and £1,500 Invested in the roder Pacific Growth Fund.

or fall. The lenets and bases of and reliefs from exaction may change. Tax reliefs referred to an hose currently usuallable and their value ssued by Schroder Unit Trusts Limited enator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street. London EC4V 4EJ, Regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Member of AUTIF. On the internet as

Caroline Merrell on the latest movements on the interest rate front

# Another fine fix



The Chancellor's refusal to give in to pressure from the Bank of England to raise interest rates has given some comfort to borrowers. However, savers, particularly those who like long-term fixed-rate products, will now be offered rates lower than they were a few weeks ago.

For instance, the Birmingham Midshires, one of the leading institutions in the fixed-rate bond market, withdrew its retirement bond aimed at the over-50s and replaced it with a lower rated fiveyear bond. A spokeswoman said: "The

rate cut is a reflection of movement in the money market rate downwards." The bond pays a fixed monthly interest of 7.1 per cent gross, which is equivalent to 5.84 per cent net. Yearly interest on the bond is

GREAT VALUE

PENSIONS

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7.3 per-cent or 5.84 per cent net. This compares with a previous monthly interest rate of 7.3 per cent. The new rate beats the 7 per cent interest on the National Savings Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bond.

The minimum investment in the building society bond is £2,500, while the maximum is £500,000 - ten times the £50,000 limit for National Savings. Those who choose to invest in the Birmingham Midshires bond will have no access to their capital for the first two years.

After that they can have access subject to 120 days' loss of interest. Those who want to withdraw money from the National Savings retirement bond lose 90 days' interest. Birmingham Midshires' last bond raised £100 million.

The newly fledged Pruden-

slightly lower rated one-year fixed-interest product with an interest rate of between 6.3 and 6.5 per cent gross. The previous equivalent 16-month

bond paid 7.05 per cent. Prudential said that it had not cut the rate on the bond because of the change in the interest rate environment, but said: "We are keeping a watching brief on the movement of

The new bond guarantees 6.5 per cent gross pa on deposits of £15,000 and over, and 6.3 per cent gross pa on deposits of £5.000 to £14,999. The equivalent net rates are 5.2 per cent and 5.04 per cent. The previous bond had a 7.05 per cent gross rate and a minimum investment of £10,000. The £50 million

tranche sold out in a month. Nationwide Building Society is also offering a five-year bond with staggered rates. The interest rate is fixed at 6 per cent in the first year, 6.25 per cent in the second, 6.75 per cent in the third, 7.5 per cent in the fourth and 10 per cent in the fifth. The minimum investment is £1,000. Philip Williamson. Nationwide's marketing

and commercial director, said:

This bond offers those with as

little as £1,000 to invest very at-

tractive rising rates of interest." The advantages of buying a fixed-interest bond is that savers can be sure of the amount they will receive at maturity. The disadvantage is that the interest rate is fixed, which means that, if base rates rise. investors may not get such a

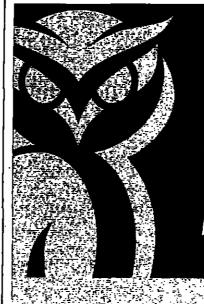
Small is beautiful once again

S uddenly the small saver is everyone's darling. After the announcement that the new Sainsbury's bank would be paying 5.75 per cent on balances of as little as £1, the Woolwich Building Society has reduced the minimum investment level on its Premier 30 account from £100 to £50 and increased the rate on balances of £1 or more from 1 per cent to 2.85

However, savers will have to give 30 days' notice to withdraw their cash. Sainsbury's. by

small saver today may well be a big saver or borrower tomorrow. Those with about £100 to invest have recently

found themselves excluded from many building societies which raised their minimum investment to £500 or more to deter speculators. The Portman Building Society has been one of the few to remain committed to smaller savers. paying 4.70 per cent on its instant-access account. However, the new competition from the banking divisions of the supermarkets contrast, offers instant access. The Woolwich should stir more building societies into offer-commented: "We cannot afford to forget that a ing better deals to less well-heeled customers.



"Guardian Direct - the ideal Top 100 tracker PEP partner<u>"</u>

**PEPs** 

This is how much the FT-SE 100 Share Index has grown in the five years to December 1996. So a Top 100 tracker PEP from a Top 100 company can offer a worthwhile option to medium and long term investors:-

The Guardian Direct Top 100 tracker PEP

Lower charges

With the UK's Top 100 companies

Don't lose your tax free allowance

The annual fund management charge is only 1% of the value of your investment. No opening charge, no exit charge and no commission charges.

Start a PEP with just £30 a month and invest up to £6,000 tax free each year. Invest the easy way - we'll send you all the details

The FT-SE 100 Share Index means the largest UK companies quoted on the Stock Exchange - which includes many household names that you will

your 1996/97 tax free allowance. Lump sum applications - minimum £1,000 - must be received by 3 April. The option of investing by monthly instalments is only available for the 1997/98 tax year.

If you've not taken a PEP this tax year act now - after 5 April you'll have lost

Source: Micropal
Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up.

he tax year ends 5 April - act now to claim your tax free PEP allowance we are open Mon-Fri 8am-9pm Sat-Sun 10am-4pm

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100	FF-SE 100 Share Index £10,060
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100	The second secon
00	Typical Net Building Society Account, 2500 milelonium investment £7,113
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turn to Guardian Direct

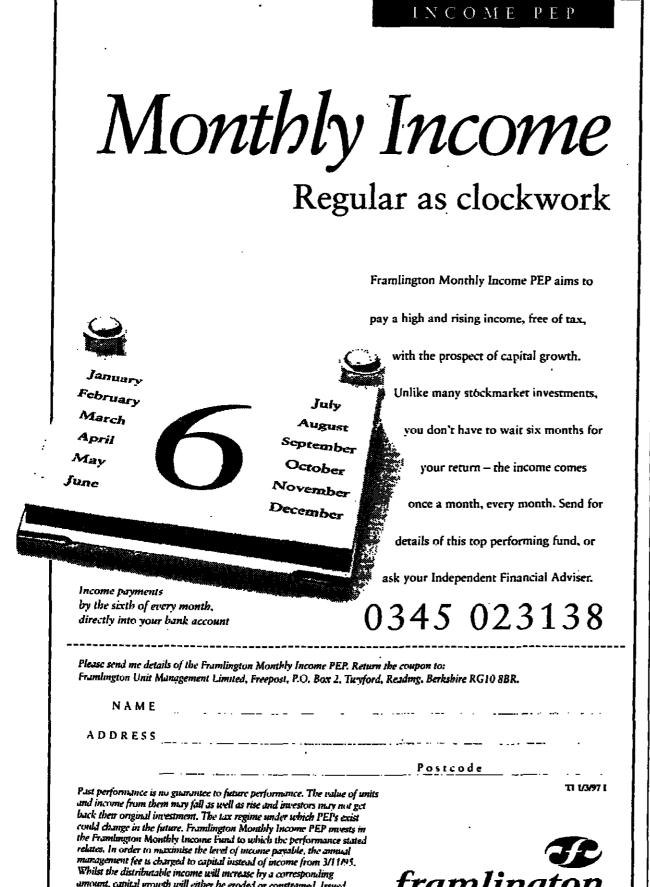
PEP up your savings call free for an application form and information pack



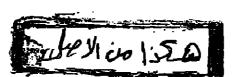
The information reflects our understanding of current legislation and lax regulations which are both subject to change.

The Guardian Direct Top 100 tracker PEP is a unit trust investment so the value of the units and income from them can go down as well as up. On the encashment of the units you may receive back less than you invested in the event of the income from the trust being insufficient to meet the annual fund manager's lee and other allowable expenses, then the manager reserves the right to be remunerated from the capital value of the trust. Tax legislation may change in the future. The value of any tax relief depends upon the financial circumstances of the investor.

Gandard (Frost Servers thit of a Repropertitive only of the Guardian Francial Servers markings group tation a registed by the Resonal Interference Authority) of the assurance, por our and out trus becames. Contact that Managers that are registed by BRO in the francis of an extreme business. Gardian Three Servers that and Genedical by BRO in the footbarred in England to 44,6043 and 95,719. Registrated officer Reset England to California (CCV 10.5 A counter of the Genedical Review), and the Counter that the California California California Detect Servers that is not available in the California Califo



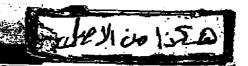
framlington



amount, capital growth will either be eroded or constrained. Issued

by Framlington Unit Management Limited which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. Member of AUTIE





# The new M&G High Income Investment Trust PEP 1997/98

The new M&G High Income Investment Trust P.L.C. PEP aims to achieve an above average and increasing income on your investment while at the same time seeking to achieve capital growth. Investment trusts are an ideal stockmarket investment, offering good long term performance and spread of risk.

Personal Equity Plans are an attractive method of investing tax free.

By combining the two, you could be making the most of your investment potential.

The M&G PEP allows you to invest up to £6,000 in both the current year and the 1997/98 tax year. It is designed for people who are looking for a good long term investment free of income tax and capital gains tax. You are eligible to invest if you are over 18 and a UK resident. If you have already taken out a 1996/97 general PEP with a company other than M&G. you can still invest up to £6,000 in the 1997/98 PEP.

 What are the investment objectives of M&G High income Investment Trust P1\_C.? The objectives of M&G High Income Investment Trust P.L.C. are to achieve an above average and increasing income over the twenty year life of the Company, while at the same time seeking to achieve capital growth. Full details are included in the mini prospectus which appears later in

What are the charges?

No initial charge and no withdrawal fee For investments in Package units or Income and Growth units there will be no initial charge to pay on your investment and no withdrawal fees either. The Trust is managed by M&G Investment Management Limited for an annual fee of 1% plus VAT. If you choose to invest through The M&G PEP there will be an additional annual charge of 0.25% plus VAT.

3. How can I invest in M&G High Income Investment Trust P.L.C.

You can choose whether you would like to invest in the Package units

and/or invest in income and Growth units. Package units - 5.0%\* yield Package units are designed to offer investors growing income and capital growth over the life of the Company. Each Package unit will consist of one

zero dividend share, one capital share and one income share. Income and Growth units -- 6.3%\* yield If you wish to receive a higher level of income at a greater risk, you should

consider investing in Income and Growth units. These consist of one income share and one capital share. The yield is higher than that received on Package units, making them suitable for investors seeking income, but the prospects of capital growth at the end of the trust's life depend on how well it has performed. Income and Growth shareholders are exposed if the trust fails to grow over its life. At annual compound growth rates of less than 4.45% a year investors in Income and Growth units will not get back all they invested; however, at annual compound growth rates over 5.00% the returns from these units will exceed the returns from Package units. The estimated gross dividend yield at the offer price of 80p is 6.3% through The M&G PEP.

"The estimated gross dividend yields are based on the manager's projected portfolio as at 31st December 1996.

Package units are priced at 100p and Income and Growth units are priced at 80p. The maximum amount that you can invest into The M&G PEP in any one tax year is £6,000. However, provided that you invest during the offer period you will have the opportunity to invest your PEP allowances for both the 1996/97 and 1997/98 tax years. Applications will be accepted in

You can invest with a lump sum, by monthly payments, or a combination

There is no share exchange or PEP transfer facility available because of the time constraints. Lump sum investment

The minimum lump sum you can invest is £1,000, the maximum is £6,000 in any one tax year. £12,000 if investing over two tax years. ii. Monthly payments

If you choose to invest on a monthly basis, the minimum contribution is 950 per month and the maximum is 9500 per month. If you invest monthly by direct debit, your first investment will be collected and invested on 16th April 1997 at the market price ruling at or about 2.30pm on that date. There will also be a stamp duty cost of 0.5% where applicable. Your payments will continue to be collected on the third Wednesday of each month by M&G unless you instruct us, in writing, to stop.

We are only offering the monthly payment option for the 1997/98 tax year and subsequent years. If you decide to invest in this way you will not have to complete further

application forms for future tax years as we will automatically continue your PEP contributions across tax years, unless you instruct us to stop. You can do this by ticking the box in section 1 of the 1997/98 application form which appears later on in this newspaper. III. Lump sum and monthly payme

You may invest a lump sum and add to it each month with a monthly contribution. If you wish to do this, you should send a cheque for the tump sum amount for either tax year and complete the Direct Debit Instruction for future monthly payments on the 1907/99 and instruction for future monthly payments on the 1997/98 application form which appears later on in this newspaper

4. When will my first payment be made?

i. For the 1996/97 tax year

Lump sum payments — Cheques and banker's drafts will be presented on 7th March 1997 and your Package units and/or Income and Growth units will be renounced into The M&G PEP on 17th Merch 1997. ii. For the 1997/8 tax year

Lump sum payments - All diseques and banker's drafts will be presented

on 7th March 1997 and Package units and/or Income and Growth units will be renounced into The M&G PEP on 7th April 1997.

Monthly payments — The first payment will be collected and invested on 16th April 1997 at the market price ruling at or about 2.30pm on that date.

Can I add to my investment in the toture?Yes, you can top up your PEP by cheque which must be received at M&G by the third Wednesday of the month, provided that the total amount invested per tax year does not exceed your \$6,000 PEP allowance. No lump sum top ups will be permitted for the current tax year after the launch period has closed. Lump sums will be accepted after 7th April 1997. You can increase your monthly payments at any time by notifying us

If we receive your cash subscription earlier than the third Wednesday of the month, we shall hold the money in a client money account outside your PEP until that time.

Can I relovest the income from my PEP?

Yas, you can. Income will automatically be reinvested, unless you tick the box in section 2 on the application form. Reinvesting the income from your nvestment could significantly enhance its value over time. If, later on, you decide that you would like to receive the income, simply write to us and we will be happy to arrange this for you.

Any income and tax repayments will be automatically reinvested unless you tick the box on the application form to indicate you wish to receive income from your PEP.

7. How do I arrange to receive tax free income?

If you wish to receive tax free income from your PEP, tick the box in section 2 of the application form and details will be sent to you. To receive income from your PEP, you must have at least £500 invested. Dividends will be paid quarterly on 25th August 1997, 25th November 1997, 25th February 1998 and 25th May 1998, income tax recialms will be paid shortly

8. Can I take money out of my PEP at any time? Yes. You can sell all or any of the Package units or Income and Growth

units held in your PEP by sending us written instructions. There is no withdrawal fee to pay. If you instruct us to sell we will send you the

your instructions before .12.30pm, the units will be sold at the market price about 2.30pm that business day, instructions received after 12.30pm will be treated as having been received on the following business day. For further details see the PEP Terms and Conditions below.

9. What documentation will I receive and when? Once your application has been received at M&G House we will send you a confirmation of receipt within five business days. You will also receive

confirmation of the details of your PEP in our formal acknowledgement. If you invest in the 1996/97 M&G PEP you will receive this in March. If you invest in the 1997/98 M&G PEP you will receive this in April.

You will receive half yearly statements of your PEP prepared to 30th June and 31st December each year. You should receive these within 25 business days of the end of the period.

You will also receive annual and half yearly Report and Accounts of M&G High Income Investment Trust P.L.C. when they are published. Prices of Package units and Income and Growth units will be quoted in the

10. How do I apply? i. Complete the PEP application form(s) for the appropriate tax

year(s). Indicate clearly how much you wish to invest, either by lump sum, monthly payments or a combination of the two. Please refer to the notes on the optication form to help you.

Ti. Make your payment.

Lump sum contributions: Please make your cheque(s) payable to 'Lloyds Bank Pic a/c M&G Offer, and enclose it with your form. Please send a separate cheque for each application you complete.

Monthly payments (1997/98 tax year only): Please complete the Direct

**11. Return your form to:** The M&G Offer, The M&G Group, PO Box 111, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford, CM1 1FD.

knoortant notes This advertisement is designed for the purpose of giving information.
 The information contained in this advertisement is based on our understanding of current law and Inland Revenue practice as at 17th lanuary, 1997. Whilst we believe this to be correct, we cannot be held responsible for the effects of any future legislation or change in

interpretation or treatment. Although you are always the beneficial owner of your units, they will be registered in the name of M&G Financial Services Limited, the registered PEP manage

Your rights as a Planholder will be governed solely by The M&G Personal Equity Plan Terms and Conditions set out in this advertisement. Please keep them in a safe place.

All M&G PEP holdings are managed as a single Plan. Should you wish to transfer your holdings to another Plan Manager your Plan must be transfered in its entirety. Cautionary notes

The Company has the right to Issue additional shares provided that the share price is in excess of the net asset value. You should always remember that the value of invi

down as well as up and that you may not get back the amount you invested. The value to you of the tax benefits of a PEP will depend on your own circumstances. The value of your capital is not guaranteed.

• The tax regime of PEPs could change in the future.

• Past performance is not necessarity a guide to future

M&G do not offer investment advice or make any

recommendations regarding investments. We only promote the packaged products and services of the M&G Marketing Group.

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Part 1 Procumentary
1. DEPERTIONS
11. We, us and our — References to "ve", "us" and "our" in these
Continuous mean MEGE Prinaptial Services Linuard as Plan Manager.
You and your — "too "and "your" mean a Planbottler, that is an
setinglust who has goested a Plan under these Conditions.
2: In these Conditions the following forms are used to mean:
"Powdenance ther" seams a day on which the London Stock Exchange

"Beanston toy," negro a cay or venus on a business sepace executing so open for business; "Casta Subscription" onexes a payment to starting from your own resources by change, bank transfer, direct debit or firms money belonging to you in our Casta account.
"Countrions" means these Conditions together with the Personal Equity Plan application from a person bailding public office under the Crown and paid out of the public revenue of the United Kingdom or stortions former.

er means and senior demonstrated by an under Contillion ?

nd who may be our essociate; PLAT means Tim Personal treespant Authority Limited, ercy with these Conditions; or means shares to MEG 1901 knows to restment Trust PLC

including a puckage usit of States; "Transcry Regulations" memor, the regulations for Paraoral Egitly Plans made on 14th March 1989 and any other regulations made

Plans made on 14th March 1999 and any other reputations thate from time to last by this treasury under the provisions of a 333 and Schedule 29 to the features and Corporation Taxes Act 1988, and a 197 of the Taxeston of Chargestile Chins Act 1982. "Ther" were a year beginning on 6th April to any calender year and excling with 5th April in the following year.

C) Where we refer to any statutory provision or regulation this behavior any modification or se-exectment which has been made.

46 We have included heatings and sub-heatings for your quadword these tern and a legally beauting part of these Conditions and if the loss differ these the not a legally provision part of these Conditions and if the loss differ these the application form is part of these procedures.

2. PLAN MANAGER.

(7) We are members of the PIA and regulated by the PIA in the (i) Not are insentence to be conducted for insentence the conduct of our insentence the last less.

(2) We agree to act as Plan Marrager in relation to your \$25G Personal Equity Plan.

(3) We wish links your investment objective to be to invest in \$25G High Income investment Trust PLC.

ocioel in instructions will the Plan. (4) We are excised to act as principles of a State of the PLAN

Part 2 SEROLDHERS TO THE PLANE

2. SUBSECRIPTION LIMITS

(1) One PCP may As an individual you may only subscribe to one quarted Personal Equity Plan in any one Year. You may continue to subscribe in the Plan in following years, subject to Treasury Regulations and John Rayanus requirements.

(2) Mendooms and count Rayanus requirements.

(3) Mendooms and count Rayanus requirements.

(4) Mendooms and count Rayanus requirements.

A RESTRICT IN MAGINET TRESTS AND WIVESTMENT

erve the right to substitute the luft MSG PEP Terms and We reserve this right to successions an end allow your Plan to Incidde Comptions for these Conditions. They wall allow your Plan to Incidde chas in one or more MAG Link Yousts, in addition to Shares. We wall prey you constructe national of the change, and will send you a copy or the full Terms and Conditions. They are no more energics than these Conditions. Where you already based a Plan to which the full these Conditions. Where you already based a Plan to which the full these Conditions.

S. SUBSECTOR TRIBES

1: Payment method the may subscribe to a Plan by making a Cash Subscription — see Condition 1(2) for definition. You may also Cash Subscription of the Condition 1(2) for definition. You may also brightly a your Plan Shares allotted or allocated in you in the public lifer of Shares. To do this you most transfer or removator your right offer of Shares. To do this you most transfer or removator with the fine

als operated in the Transkity Regulations.

Regular technicaptions, Unites you state otherwise on your plantable from the technique of the proprietion as our authority to place and treest submarphipus until one of as northes the other in ing subscriptions You may discontinue subscriptions to (a) company sourcepasses for may discontinue substrations to your Plan either isosporarily or permissently without pensity and authorit affecting your right to continue your Plan, but you cannot substrate to 2 Plan wher it has closed (see Condition 22). Part 2 That Plant

Components Your Plan lectudes your Shares, any cash licks, all income and other rights and the benefit of any tax relief

in respect of the Units.

Clearly We shall regarding a starting client account with an sudmarked institution within the meaning of the Banking Act I we stad great to the account all cash received in the Plan Inch

 Separating your maney was consumer.
 RESSTRATION OF MALESTMENTS 7. RESISTIMATION OF MORESTMENTS
(1) Investments will be registered in our name at, if we so destyrate, the ment of a Maraine.
(2) Subject to Treatment Progrations, you bereby authorise as to sold a Subject to The Maraine.
(2) Subject to Treatment and instructions to say Mouslace as the cursider appropriate for the discharge of our responsibilities under gase Conditions and you accept that we shall not be responsible for the Mousland.

the destablis of the Mountains.

(3) We small hold, or have halfd to our order, all title documents, or rang tile, et respect di kreta

and other rights.

(4) We may not lead to estimate and rights to a find party and we may not borrow appears the security of any investments.

8. ESPECIAL OWNERS

(1) You will at all threat be the beneficial country of the investments. was and of any other rights from time to time held in

Appoints you are the beneficial center, you agree not to dep (C) Although you are the operations owner, your agreet our to expose of or transfer any observed in such interchinents or any such rights or cash business and out to create for have rudstandingly any change or scruitly on or over such investments or any such rights or cash scruitly on or over such investments or any such rights or cash scruitly on or over such investments or any such rights or cash scruitly on the over the overall or transfer investments.

e Press (11 Manual Charge We make at Annual Charge on shares held in (11 Manual Charge Will per year. This charge is calculated in 12 the Plan of Lafe plus Will per year. This charge is calculated in 12

installments based on the mid-market value of the Shares at 2.30 per on the first Business Day of each month. The charge is equalities for Shares for an approximant amount at the time or franchis the Shares.

Haber Growing in the Stores. In wash or transfer the Stores. If Wahred Faces We may wave the accept charge in respect of the M&G High Income Investment Trust PLC and we retain the right to remaining any wanted fee. (3) Other Fees: We may be paid by the excession: across of the hader Principle years provided to such charges, fees 211 expenses as we been in administrative and other services : real-city sca-diagraphy's function in respect of States held in the Post.

Register's Number of PRESS.

10. Principal of PRESS.

Where possible, we shall decount fees or other same the must from the chief number of the feet must from the chief number of the feet must from the feet number of the feet must fine must fine must fine must feet must feet must feet must feet number of the sale Starts on that value and apply the proceeds of the sale to such payment.

1L REPORTS AND VOTING ISSUES (i) We shall not exercise any voting rights attaching to be Sizes. igna god well you have elected to exercise such replica you sinceled us on the appropriate form of which electricis.

masse in the farm appropriate with a state assistant. We shall assessly to the actual reports and according to sent your the actual reports and according to the actual reports and according to state the senting to elect.

The mainty film as one mount's notice to wating to elect.

To mainty in making of state absolute to wating to elect.

To mainty or with a print;

To mainty with a print;

To mainty with the continue until such time as you with a site and a service.

No shall send you a Plan Statement beine a year drawn up as at 30th June and 31st December, within 25 Business Days of those class. The statement will show details of at manachons or your Plan. since the previous st

LATION FOR PLAN MANAGER (1) You must provide us with all administron which we reasonably compact for the purposes of the Plan and, in personal, you must admin us promptly if you change your home administration and form to be reasonable of the costs to be reasonable. so must use userum us stanediately if you classe to be residen; and codingally resident in the United Kingdom for its purposes. If you ex-non-resident, you must notify us mamerisately if you classe to cushly to imperative to a PEP as a Crown Employee, in ether case, you may not made any further Class Subscriptions to your Plan. 14. Improcess OR REQUESTS

Ne operate a written complatolis procedure in accordance with PIA

ruine. You may address your completed to us or to the i Part S DECOME ARISING FROM THE PLAN MENT OF PLAN BICO pless you elect to be paid the income from your Part (see Concitor) 171, we shall exply all dividends (after deciman of any annual charge - dear Courtiers) and any annual charge - dear Courtiers in your Plan to purchase or subscribe for further Shares in your Plan to purchase or subscribe for further Shares in 4666 High Income Investment Rust, if any cash belance reclaims are their court in the further share are deadle even in furnishment and in the further shares are their court in the further shares are shared even in the further shared even in the shared even in the

हर्स करते क्षति है के विकास नेपन (1) Election You may elect to receive occurs cissibilities and sur cisions antibulate to the States in the Plan, powered you are that us to cause the payments by direct credit to a UK bank or UK banking

sty account. Procedure & timing the must instruct us in writing in the form change back to investing income will come rise effect seen fluments Days after we receive your written assumptions (4) Payments We shall arrange to make payments to you in accordance with your direct creats manage shorts after we

accordance with your bases treated instance payments any actual charge level under Caraction 9. We draw make at the magassary closes for tax (six) relating to your Plan and the directments, rights and close totalness bend in a Part of MAKONS CHANGES TO OR clument

13. SHE FIRST ARM SECTION SHOPPING WE SHALL TAKE AT DUCTUSES OF Shares with Income. We shall trake all purchases of Shares at or amount 2.50 pm on the Susmess Day or which we

Treatment and an amount of the precision payment.

(2) Boylong States with Cash Substantiations: The dealing day for (2) Boylong States with Cash Substantiations: The dealing day for Bothers will be the first Westnessay of each means and the last Business Day in any year. If we receive your Cash Sussemption and Business Day in any year. If we receive your days in 30 cm on the secondary to particle and coping ou based 5/100 feet of the cost and successive a desing day, or better any counting our parties allower by low may expired, we shall hold the cash in a client money account cutside your flow until the cost following dezing day.

3. Selfing Shares Provided we receive your written assiructions before 12.30 pm at our Desiruction Crice, we shall set Shares better your flow around 2.30 pm on that Business Day if your in your flam at or around 2.30 pm on that Business Day if your parties.

we gues man as or annum 2.50 pm on mat Business Day If your legarations driver after 12.30 pm we shall meat them as being received on the real Business Day, the shall pay you me proceeds of the sale on the research Stude Enthaltys settlement data. The temperature and a sale of the proceeds of the sale on the research Stude and the settlement data.

the same of the restant that any at any time direct us in (1) Chapping Plan Manager You may at any time direct us in techniq to massiar your extre Plan to enotice Plan Manager who has agrees to accept the massive.

(2) Transforming Starts or value from 1486 for may direct the either to sell your Starts of the massive them to the few plan manager. If you direct up to sell, we shad sell me Starts managers, and the start of the Starts manager and the start of t

represent if you fined us I set, we such that proceeds of the sale point to the transfer of the Phan and transfer that proceeds of the sale to the new plan manager. In either case, we stall asso vanishe any to the new plan manager than the plan manager than any dedoct from the transfer any sums the to us (3). This long the manager the transfer any sums the to us.

(3) This long the most agree the transg of the transfer with the new plan manager. These Continues will optimate II asky to the Para until the transfer is complete and until we have continued all outstanding क्षांगड बद वर्ध थे। वर

21. WITHING PARTY S. (1) Four instructions You may 21 any time dream us in writing CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE Page and any cash between or const out to mit to "an r and any wash presented to have higher made of the Transfers You may defect us to presente: Stores to you to the five person or persons. The PET rules we lease to apply to the क्रमान्य प्रमञ्ज्ञान्य । **Sales** में क्ष्मा द्वाराची की क्षा डर्गा क्ष्मारण कर :च्येरेजर प्रदेश कार्गीरण

request we strall sell the Strares and pay the proceeds to you on the the settlement care.

14. Duristanting fees or tax. We may deduct from any payment or transfer any encount the trus. We stall also retain any an included the country and any an included the

of yours under the Plan for which we must account under the Treasury Regulators
22 CLOSME A PLAN
(1) At your request You may close your Plan at any time if you the Part of your will care on their section to an involve that written requests the Plan will care in the assets but no not make that written requests the Plan with care in the country in sections are with inland

If we rease to act as a Plan Manager if we decide to case s a Plan Manager, we shall give you reasonable notice in At one end of that notice period the Plan will close but you the interior, transfer or wantions your Plan il you wish isse

cay, or the interior, transfer or withdraw your Plan if you wish issee Condition 20 or 21:.

Of Other circumstances. We shall give you written notice of classine if it ever becomes impractical to comply with the Treasury Regulations. Your Plan closes automatically if the Inland Revenue hear it is with under the Treasury Regulations (see Condition 23).

14. Returning your investment. When the Plan closes, you may check us either some your own or more the period of the plan closes, you may check us eather to see the States or to transfer them muo your own or more than a man if your first its for the second in the States and continer marger It you detect us to sell, we shall sell the Shares and arrister to you the proceeds of the sale in either case, we shall also

Outstanding fees or tax. We may deduct from any payment or sees any amount due to us. We shall also retain any tax (adolides,

of yours under the Pran for which we must account whose many freezery Regulations.

19. During closure Closing a Plan will not affect any transactions, which have been exibated before the closure process began Duringset Conditions, will continue to apply during the closure and until we have compressed all outstanding transactions and met all habithes.

23. TREASURY REGULATIONS AND VOID PLANS.

The first facility and the Prantice of well become viril peculiars if flag We stad noth you dithe Plan has or will bed rec said 1907 from one real risk of while bother won recently in his failed to saids, the "freastry Regulations. These Combines will combine will combine to be encorreable unless and until the Intand Revenue treat the Plan as long under the Treasary Regulations at which time the Plan and ammediately, once We shall then hold the assets of the Plan to your order, ourside Treasury Regulations, until we receive your

11. The tax evemptors of the Plan stop on the planfolder's death 22. When we are informed of the planfolder's death we shall subject to such formables as we shall speedly at the time transfer the Shares and any cash balance and any other rights in the Plan. outsine fleasury negotations to be lead to be planned sharply of the planned sharply of the

leted all purstanding transactions and met ell liabilities principles at visitational displacements and their site installed.

25. BIDEMINITY
For the purposes of this Condition you includes both you and your
personal representatives and we lies includes our Nominee You
agree to indemnify us and at all hines keep us indemnified in respect personal representatives and we us incures our nominer for agree to internity us and all all hines, keep us indemned in respect of all (subatives tauss costs charges and expenses we near nearest by aut own nechosence) in secting our administrating and disoning the Pain and in connection with any investments and deposits under the

VARIATION AND AMENDMENT OF THESE CONDITIONS

25. VARIATION AND AMENDMENT OF THESE CONDITIONS

17. We stail have prover to any to prame of the charges specified

in these Conditions provided that no additional or incleased PEP
charge may be imposed in respect of investments already held
written your Plan

(2). In addition to 11) above, we may from time to time make
changes in and to these Conditions where

(4) These are required in order to chirply with any legal or regulatory
requirement, including Treasury Regulations

We shall give you reasonable notice of such changes as
procured and the provided of the conditions.

ese Conditions and the relationship between the two of us will be

poverhed by English law 78. COMPONE ATTOM in the event that we cannot meet our imancial liabilities to you, you unit be entitled to apply for compensation under the Investors' Congensation Scheme established under the Financial Services Act

PLEASE READ AND SIGN SECTION 3 OPPOSITE

and with your to any other general and with not subscribe to any other general Personal Equity Plan or or for the tex year to which this application races, not, where I have arranged to superrite to the Plan by mountly contributions will is absorbe to any other general Personal Equity Plan tor an, subsequent that years in which I subscribe to this Plan. (c) I am resident and ordinarily resident in the Lift for izo purposes or on non-resident, perform duties which by your of Section 132(4)(a) of the Taxes Act (Crown Employees serving overseas) are resided as being performed in the United Kingdom and will inform M&S

resident or to perform such duffest. contracts: which I will easier to this Personal Fourty Plan. will be made with the own money let figil whem least Francial Services Limited proviptly of any change IN MAY CONTRACTORISE, WHICH Effects 2019 of this Informa-HARDIN BUSINESS MAG FRANCIS SERVICES LIMITED

Financial Services Limited if Lesage to be so resident and ordinarity

distributions and any other rights or proceeds in respect of mose weerments and the other cash in the Personal Equity Plan.

(C) On my warrast Telephone to beautiful or pary to me as the case may be. Jun avenues. All 651, distributions mobile or other necessary respect of such oversements as any costs held in the Plan

### NOTES TO HELP YOU TO COMPLETE YOUR 1997/98 PEP APPLICATION FORM

Note 1. Please give your dayture telephone number so that if a query arises in relation to your application form we can attempt to contact you at once and speed up the processing of your form. No salesman will call. As part of our customer service, we will contact a random sample of investors in the evening to ensure that they are happy with our standards of administration. If you are happy to take part in this research, please also give your evening telephone number.

Where this business has been introduced via an intermediary, M&G will contact this intermediary in respect of any quaries.

Note 3. This application and renunciation MUST be for round thousand pounds with a maximum of \$5,000, is \$1,000, £2,000, £3,000 etc. (in accordance with Cond notes \$ 1715 appearant and reputation set out in the listing particulars dated 17th January 1997.) If you subscribe for more Units than you are legally permitted to recourse into your MSG PEP, the excess units will be held cutside your MSG PEP and you will receive a certificate for them. re units are acquired in the merket there will also be a stamp duty cost of 0.5% where applicable for regular investment made outside of the offer period. Terms and Conditions of application set out in the listing particulars (see Mini Prospectus which appears later in this newspaper) dated 17th January 1997

a) You authorise Lloyds Bank Pic and M&G Financial Services Limited to take all steps and execute all such documents on your behalf as may be necessary in connection ourise Lloyds Bank Pic to send a document of title for the number of units ellotted to you to M&G Financial Services Limited and procure that M&G Financial

b) You anythorse usyes sank ric to send a coordinate or use for the humber of units assumed to you to hake transcas services united is placed on the register of members of the Company in respect of such units with effect from 17th March 1997. Where shares are acquired in the market there will also be a stamp duty cost of 0.5% where applicable for regular investment made outside of the other period. Your completed application and cheque or banker's draft must be received by 3.00pm on Friday 7th March 1997 at M&G. The M&G. Group, P.O. Box 111, Chelmsford CM1 1FD.

ned by The Personal Investment Authority).

### Application Form

### Offer closes 3.00 pm 7th March P. 1.c. P. 197/98

Personal Details IMPORTANT: DETAILS REQUIRED BY THE INLAND REVENUE s witch to servest in the tax year ending 5th April 1998 Postcode: If you wish to attend and vote at shareholder most fines and to receive additions See note 1 above) ion sent to skareholders please tick trils box. 🗆

2 Investment details — Please ledicate below the amount you wish to invest either by lump sum or mortilaly payment The maximum you can lovest in a general PEP in any one tax year is £5000 (see note 3 above). PAYMENT METHOD AND INCOME OPTION PRICE OF UNITS LUMP SUM

 Lump sine payments by chaque or benker's dealt Misies paytitie to "Linguis Beat Pic, Art Misie Oties" crossed TAC payer only 100p .00 (Est. Yeard 5,0%) Monthly payments by direct dable Complete section 4 below. **q08**  Income options if you wish to sective income payments from your PEP, set this box and details will be out to you. £ | 00.

To MRE High Income Investment Thest PLC. I impressibly offer to extractibe for the amount inclinated shows to be invested in Units in MRE High Income
SEMERAL PEP IN ANY ONE TAX
Investment Trust PLC, on the Terms and Conditions of Application set out in the Enting postbudge; see Mint Prospectics which appears later in this
YEAR. The application for Units newspaper) daied 17th Jacobary, 1997.
Lendage on yologue or basines and the the amount stated show, it hands removes on 7th Anal, 1997 (subject to revocation before that daies, the Unite withington. An application, using to MASE Françaid Services Limited to think in may PEP. In Middle Françaid Services Limited to the firm only PEP. In Middle Françaid Services Limited to the firm of the surface and the state of the surface shows the surface and the firm of the surface and the firm of the surface of the surface and the surface and the surface of the surface of the surface and the surface of the surface of the surface and the surface of the surfa

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For Manager my Pan must be baretered in its entirety.

I bereby declare that to the best of any immediation and build, the above information is true and connect and i make the declarations and give the prior to 17th March, 1997. Full

Signature CHAIT complete this staction of your winds to immed morthly. Your payments will be made climbilly CHAIT complete this staction of your winds to immed morthly. Your payments will be made climbilly e of account holder Account pumber Orientar's identification number 957231. Originator's relatence full name and address of your bankinghing audidy MAG PEP/

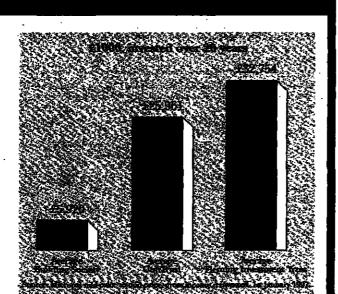
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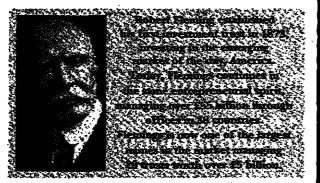
207 details and Terms and Conditisement. You should consult your Direct Debit Openit Send your taye one, before travesting.
Send your count countries form to: The M&G Group, P.O. Box 111. this is an ambication in men a PEP will hold this form on your behalf BLOCK CAPITALS AND BLUE OR 祖名以助队

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- So they are ideal for PEPs.
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guide to the future. The tax treatment of Personal Equity Plans is based on current legislation and may change. The tax advantages of PEPs will depend on had circumstances. Issued by Fleming Investment Trust Services Limited, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, only sells unit trusts, recognised nent achemes, investment trust savings schemes, PEPs, life assurance and pension products offered by the Flemings and Save & Prosper marketing group.

ATTACANT

## De Lorean design the car of the future Some 1982 predictions were more Profitable than others.

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	f1,000 invested on 18:2.82*	£50 per month since 18.2.82*	Quartile*	<u>.</u>
PROLIFIC FAR EASTERN	£8,368	£21,978	1	ľ
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- 15 years ago, we launched three unit trusts aiming for long-term growth. All three have spectacularly achieved it.
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oversary of Prohinc's Far Eastern, Special Satuations and Technology unit trusts. Please return this coupon to Prohibc Unit

MT FROM NEW OFFER TO BUT WITH MET RECOME REINVESTED TO 31 12.96 OWER 5 YEARS PROLIFIC'S FAIR EASTERN UNIT TRUST WAS JUD QUARTILE, SPECIAL STUDIOUS UNIT MATTER AND TECHNOLOGY UNIT TRUST WAS IST QUARTILE, 11,000 DWESTED 5 YEARS AGO WOULD BE WORTH, (1,799, 1,400 AND 12,427 RESPECTIVELY REGILAR SAVINGS OF EASTERN ANY WORDS BE WORTH-12,475, (4,306 AND CS,504 RESPECTIVELY) PREASE RELINGERS THAN SALE PRECIDENCE AND TRUST AND THE PRESENCE AND THE PRESE



### Far-sighted move by optician

The case of optician Heddwyn Davies shows that with the help of graduate banking deals it is possible to find solvency after studenthood. Mr Davies graduated in 1993 and faced a combination of student debts and the need to buy expensive equipment to start his сатеет.

Mr Davies took out a £2,000 graduate loan plus an interest free overdraft from Lloyds Bank to tide him over until his salary improved. He has now paid off all his debts and runs the Lampeter branch of Evans and Hughes

### It's hard in the real world

Nor Britain's 250,000 final-year students the race for jobs is well under way. Over the remaining weeks before exams, the class of 1997 will be crowding out of the bar and into the careers office in a bid to escape campus poverty. Often the route to riches will be hard and survival may depend on

getting the cheapest loan. Last year more than 50 per cent of graduates found they increased their debts after leaving university, and this year's figure is expected to be higher. The transition from study to work can mean extra costs for dothes, cars or moving home. With debts from student days, these may be far beyond a

But final-year students worried by the prospect of increasing debt can take comfort from the fact that help is at hand from the high street banks. Because banks regard graduates as potential high earners. most will invest to attract educated custom. A survey by

TEL: 0181 343 4567 Lines Ogen 24

Nathan Yates looks into loans for this year's crop of new graduates

The Times shows some highly competitive deals on offer. Suppose you are in need of a sharp suit or two to impress a new employer, perhaps a car to travel to work and the deposit for a rented flat. Combined with the average college leaver's debts of £1,982, the

cost could reach £10,000. Normally the cheapest way to borrow £10,000 for five years would be to pick the best buy from the personal loans chart in Weekend Money. Currently the best deal is Northern Rock Building Society's 12.9 per cent APR: A E10.000 loan would cost £269.12 per month, and the total repayment would be El6,147.20. Not an attractive prospect for a struggling

young professional. This is where bank packages come in. With Midland Bank's package, graduates can borrow £10,000 at just 9 per cent APR, which means that the total repaid after five years would be £14,490.07

The saving of E1,657.13 on Northern Rock's loan could make a large difference to future financial health, so graduates considering a loan should take advantage. It is worth emphasising that Midland's scheme is not restricted to those who had current accounts in their student days.

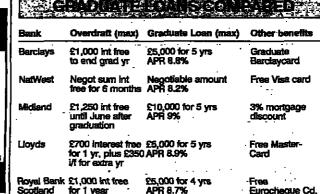
Anyone who has left university recently can have Midland's deal, and this is true of all the other schemes in our table. So there is nothing to stop students shopping round after finals for a graduate loan which suits them best. Although 93 per cent of graduates stay with the same bank they had as students, there are.

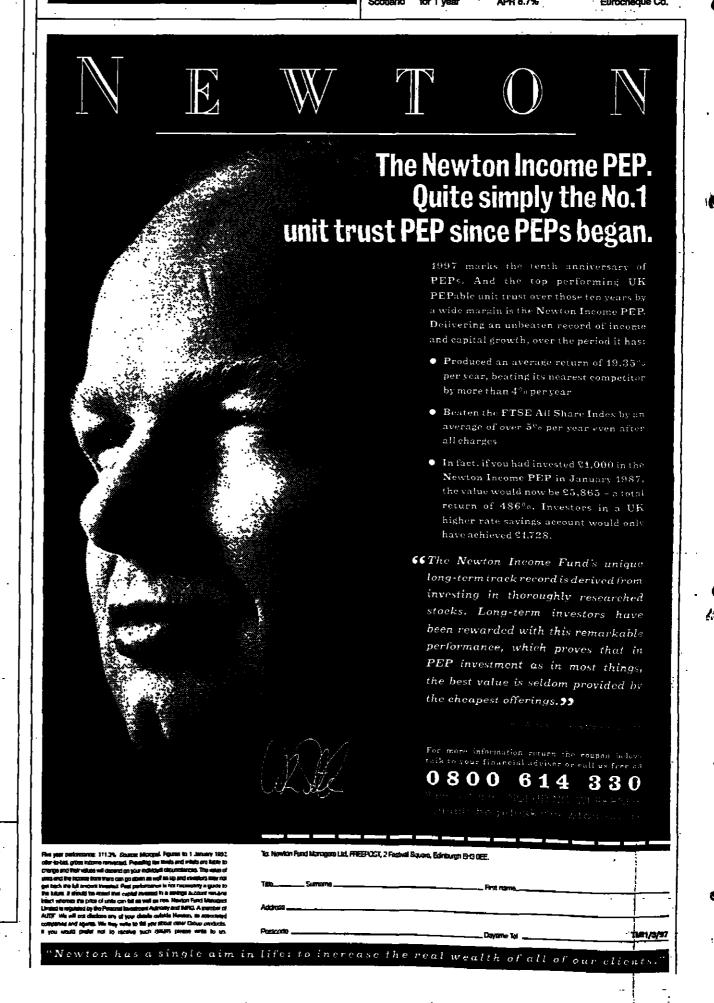
good reasons to change. Midland's permitted loan limit of £10,000 is the largest on the market, but its 9 per cent APR compares unfavourably with NatWest's 8.2 per cent. On a E5,000 five-year loan, it makes

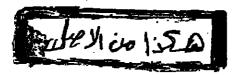
.a difference of £104.82 In the short term too it is worth choosing carefully. Borrowing £1,000 for a month or two can be essential to bridge the gap until your first pay day, but costs can be high. if you run up a £1,000 debt on a credit card and are unable to pay it off before the interestfree deadline, you can expect to suffer penalties of up to 29.8 per cent APR. Even with a popular card such as Barclaycard the rate is 22.3 per cent, so El,000 borrowed for one

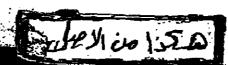
month will cost you £16.10. In most cases an overdraft is a cheaper option, but a £1,000 overdraft with Barclays normally attracts 18.8 per cent interest. Fortunately, all the big banks are willing to extend student interest-free over-











# M&G HIGH INCOME INVESTMENT TRUST P.L.C.

M&G HIGH INCOME INVESTMENT TRUST PL.C.

(incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Act 1985 with registered number 3297696) Offer for Subscription, Intermediaries Offer and Placing

of up to 995 million Income Shares 995 million Capital Shares and 995 million Zero Owldend Shares.

of up to 10 million 'C' Shares and up to

in connection with the activisition of shares of M&G Second Duel Trust P.L.C. The number of Shares being offered under the Offers and the Placing has defiberably been food at such a level as to minimise the possibility of having to scale down applications. Accordingly, the number of Shares being offered should not be taken as being indicative of the

remitter of Strates which will be allotted.

The Mani Prospectus describes MASS High income investment Trust P.L.C., the Offer for Subscription of Units and Zero Dividend Shares and the Intermediaries Offer and Placing of Units and Shares and the Same of Shares and the Same one of Same on published on 17 January 1997 and in particular, Units retire to jal Package Units, which are units comprising one Zero Dividend Share, one Income Share and one Capital Share, and (to) Income and Smorth Units which are units comprising one income Strate and one Capital Share, and (to) Income and Smorth Units which are units comprising one income strate and one Capital Share. This Mail Prospectus contains information in summary form drawn from the Listing Particular, which above contains full details of the Company, the Offer for Mass Satisfy Saturdays excepted until 7 March 1997 or, if later, the date on which the Offers for Mass Satisfy Saturdays excepted until 7 March 1997 or, if later, the date on which the Offers for Mass Sacond Dust close from Mass Investment Massagement Limited, 3 Minister Court, Great Tower Street, London ECSR 70th and SBC Warburg, 1 Firstury Avenue, London ECSM 2PP.

Management Limsted, 3 Minster Court, Greet Tower Street, London EC3R 7761 and SBC Warburg, 1 Firstury Avenue, London EC2M 2PP.
In applying for Units or Zero Dividend Steres under the Otter for Subscription or for Units or Strees in the International Otter for Placing, you will be treated as applying on the basis of the Terms and Conditions of Application set out in this document, which govern your rights and obligations. If you require applice, you should consult your stackbroker, addition, or other professional adviser authorised under the Phancial Services Act 1985.
Your attention is drawn to the summary of the terms of the M&G second Dual Offers set out in this document and more particularly described in the Offer Document and the Listing Particulars.

In this accument and more particularly described in the Unier Document and the Lieung Particulars.

The London Stock Exchange has authorised the Issue of this document under \$154(1)(b) of the Financial Services Act 1966 without approving his contents. This document is not for dight-inflowed the UK, nor should it he breasted as an offer or solicitation outside the UK. SEC Workurg, which is regulated by the Securities and Finance Authority Limited, is acting for MAG High Income in councetion with the Offers, the Placing and the MAG Securid Dual Offers and no one also and will not be responsible to anyone other than MAG High Income for providing the protections afterded to customers of SEC Warburg or for affording advice in retailan to the Offers, the Placing or the MAG Securid Dual Offers.

The Derections are satisfied that this Man Prospective combines a fair summary of the key information set out in the Listing Particulars.

**建筑**工具构造

Samuel Balling

SHE IS ASSESSED.

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Application list for the Offer for Subscription opens Close of the Intermedianes Offer Close of the Offer for Subscription Close of the Placing Basis of allocation expected to be announced Date of allocation expected to be announced Date of allocation of Shartes Destings in the Indias and Shartes expected to commence Delinative certificaties expected to be despiticiped Latest Date for transferring Shartes into a PEP for 1996/97 Latest Date for transferring Shartes into a PEP for 1997/98 KEY INFORMATION

9.00 a.m. on Monday, 3 February 3.00 p.m. on Friday, 7 Mearch 3.00 p.m. on Friday, 7 Mearch 3.00 p.m. on Monday, 10 Mearch 10.00 a.m. on Tiesday, 17 Mearch Monday, 27 April Sunday, 27 April

tass() High income is a new split capital investment trust with a planned life of 20 years.
 As the state! expenses of itemsching M&G High income will be borne by M&G so that the Package Units and Component Shares will each have an initial nat asset value equal to their

Package Units and Component sharts was cause and above average and increasing income respective disage prices.

The objective of MaG High Income will be to achieve an above average and increasing income over the 20 year life of the Company while at the same time seeding to achieve capital growth. The estimated initial initialised gross dividend yield on the Package Units is 5.3% and on the future and Growth Units is 6.5%.

Zero Christend Shares have an expected return of 9.5% per year.

MAG Investment Management Limited will manage MAG High Income's Investment portfolio.

CAPTIBLE, STRUCTURE:

MISS High Income's store capital will, after Conversion of the "C" Shares and "I" Shares
described below, comprise equal numbers of Zero Dividend Strates, Income Strates and Capital

Scares. Condend Shares will ofter a predesemented rate of return in the form of capital Income. 
Zero Grindend Shares will ofter a predesemented rate of return in the form of capital Income. 
Stares will receive all the devidends paid by M&G High Income Embject only to the rights of the 
T Shares will the planned winding up of M&G Second Qual in early 1999) and on a winding up of M&G Second Qual in early 1999) and on a winding up of M&G Second Qual in early 1999) and on a winding up of M&G Second Qual in early 1999, and on a winding up of M&G Second Qual in early 1999, and on a winding up of M&G Second Qual in early 1999, and on a winding up of M&G Second Qual in early 1999, and the receive all the capcapital Shares (Capital Shares and Income Shares may also be held as Package Units (each 
Carphising one share of each class) or as income and Growth Units (each comprising one income 
Seare and one Capital Share). Investment in a Package Unit will be equivalent to investing in an 
outchary share in an investment bust without a split capital structure, investment in an Income 
2nd Growth Unit will be equivalent to investing in a greated ordinary share with a high indical yield 
with the prospect of a growing income and of capital growth.

In addition, M&G High Indome will issue I'C Shares and T Shares as part of the consideration 
for M&G Second Dual Offers described below.

OFFER FOR SUBSCRAFTION, INTERNICEMARIES OFFER AND PLACEME
The Offer for Subscription is open for applications only for Package Units at 100p each, for furnity and Growth Units at 80p each and for Zero Dividend Shares at 20p each until 3,00 p.m. or 7 March 1997. Subject as set out below in relation to the Pincing, the Other for Subscription or red being underwritem. Zero Davidend Shares, locome Stores and Capata Shares can only be screed in equal numbers. Applications, other than for Package Units, only have to be scaled back. Package Units, income and Growth Units. Zero Devidend Shares, motione Shares and Capata Package Units. Income shares and Capata Shares are being offered by SGC Warbourg to Intermedianies hough the intermedianes Offer the intermedianies. Offer is not being underwriten and applications, other than for Package Units. Trus have to be scaled back. Applications under the furnity and intermedianies of the received by 3,000 was an application of 7 March 1997.

100 p.m. on 7 March 1997.

SEC Wartung has agreed to procure subscribers, or taking which isself to subscribe, for Zero States up to the combiner of income and Growth Units applied for in the Office for Subscribion july to a maximum of 100 million Zero Dividend Sharest, SSC Mighting will use its reasonable endeavours to seek places for income Shares and Capital Shares and for further Zero Sindero Stores. The Placing will close at 3.00 p.m. on 10 March 1997 BLE EMBTY PLANS

Privations may transfer up to 55,000 worth of Component Shares, Package Units or Income 2nd Growth Units into a general PEP for each of the 1996/7 and 1997/8 tox years.

1953 High Income will make quarterly dividend payments on the income Shares (activities se comprised in the Package Units and the Income and Growth Debts of February, Mar. Assurs

Table congregation of the facility than any the shouther and scheme steps of referency, May, August 2207 All Constitutions of the facility of the first dividence expected to be paid on 25 August 1907 All Constitutions will be leadering dividences in the absence of undersonen circumstances, the Develops of MASC High income are forecasting that the first 5 quarterly dividences payable by MASC High income on respect of the particle to 31 May 1980 will brief 5.2 first) per income Stone. Those dividences are expected to be paid as to 0.856 (net) in each of August 1997, Mocenther 1997, February 1998, May 1998 and as to 0.856 (net) in each of August 1997, Mocenther 1997, February 1998, May 1998 and as to 1.356 (net) in August 1998. The estimated initial annualised goals dividendly vield is 5.3% of the offer poice of the Pockage Units, 6.5% of the offer price of the August 1998.

	Peckage · In Units Gro	come and with thirts		integrate States	दिव्यक्ती अक्रम
Prope	100p	80p	200	7 <b>0</b> p	100
Externated invited communicated gross displayed yaeld Initial met asset value per Unit/	5.3%	6.6%	-	7.5%	-
Component Starts The above save statistics about be re- Buses" set put in the Listing Particulars.	100p ad in conjunc	80p Gen meth th	Zip e Princip	78p # Assuraç	10p History 2021
RLUSTRATIVE GROSS REDEMPTION YES Assumed Anomae and Capital Growth Rates:	.ns	2.5%	5%	75%	10%
. Zero Diedergi Steres Jerope Stores	7,49 4.56	9.5 7.62	9.5 11.62	9.5 12.88	9.5 14.89
Capital States Package Onto	4.56	7.47	6.04 9.98	15.14 12.49	19.92 15.00

traire gross retemption yields are stated as perpentages per armon and have seed on, and should be read in conjunction with, the "Principal Assumptions

and Reves" and out in the Listing Particulars.

bivestment objective. POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
bivestment objective of MSG High Income will be to achieve an above average and
accessing income over the 20 year life of the Company while at the same time seeking to
achieve capital growth.
The estimated initial increased of the company of the company of the same time seeking to pital growth pital growth protectivities aroundsted gross dividend yield is 5.3% on the Package Units and 6.6%

eve capital growth.
The estimated initial annualised gross dividend yield is 3.375 to 1.176. Wild Davidend Fund.
The stoncated initial annualised gross dividend yield is 3.375 to 1.177.
The Mild Davidend Fund.

145G High Income will follow a straight investment policy to that of the Mild Davidend Fund.

145G Davidend Fund was astablished in May 1964 and details of its performance record are 1 Mild Davidend Fund was astablished in May 1964 and details of its performance record are 1 Mild Davidend Fund.

155G Davidend Fund was astablished in May 1964 and details of its performance record are 1 Mild Davidend Fund.

155G Davidend Fund was astablished in May 1964 and details of its performance record are 1 Mild Davidend Fund.

155G Daviden MAIN right virtures was numer a series investment painty to make it in the Mort General Pict. Fire MEG Devidend Fund was astablished in May 1964 and details of its performance record are fuscrated below. Over every 20 year period (patchated at the end of each month) since its aurica, it has outperformed the FISE All Share leder, Over the period since its launch in 1964, in arms of capital, it has outperformed the FISE All Share leder and the level of shares growth.

ras ourpaced visition.

By following a similar tweetenent policy to 7he MSG Dwideral Fund, MSG high income believes that it can provide an attractive lotted income which is likely to grow over tane. The Descript believe that the lounch of MSG High Income will give investions the apportunity to rivest as a first managed by an experienced and successful income fund managed at a time when, in their operation, income staines are undervalued.

Investment policy

The Manager's policy will be based on MBG's investment philosophy, which a built on rationy a long term approach to measurement and performance. MBG's investment style is value diver, although ordershould, are believed by MBG to be undersalized understony in businesses which, although ordershould, are believed by MBG to be undersalized under the petition of the processors of their methodical ments following detailed research. MBG's measurement of companies or about it and a should have a time and setting materiality with the management of companies in which it invests, by gloving mose companies constructive support. Waller not fundering with the day to day management of their business, this may involve breaky intervention, either man menty desposing of a holding when the investment prospects because less carties.

MBG High income's portions is expected to companies mainly bely victing cartiers; startes of the high process of the portion with the fisce of the London Stock Entersige. A significant proportion of the portion with the made up of companies calculate the FISE 100 today. A small proportion of the portion may consist of convertible and other fund interest securities. The Manager may select securities or overseas companies suitable for MBG Mgh, habone's measurement who. These securities will predominantly be listed overseas but may be isseed on the investment odiasy

Manager may select securities of or tent style. These securities will predict Avestment style. These sections is a limited extent, in unquited sections, MASC High income MASC High income may livrest, to a limited extent, in unquited sections, MASC High income may border to hand short may hold uses to The MASC Deviced Fund. Although MASC High income may border to hand short users amy stonent coportionities, it is not the present intention that any segmiciant large term for term investment coportionities, it is not the present intention that any segmiciant large term for many's will be made. MASC High income may participate in underwriting or sch-underwriting public shore issues and placings. The investment policy will be consistent with MASC High income peace a Castleying Investment linest.

herry a Costelling investment final.

MSC flogh imagine will, in the absence of unforestern consensates, tuling the objective and making the best of the finance of the States and any making other described above for at least three years after the least of the States and any making other described above for at least three years after the least of the States and any making of the States and States are states as the states are the states and states are states as the states are states are states as the states are states are states as the states are states as the states are states are states as the states are states as the states are states

investment management

ACLG High Income's porticion will be managed by the Manager, which is the divestment managed in the Income's porticion will be managed by the Manager, which is the divestment management trusts, like assurance and person funds. The approximation of the management are appeared to company person funds, charles management at 30 December 1996 when \$15.7 billion. The Manager as of 31 December 1996 ingraged \$3.1 billion in UK-equity manager and mass and \$1 belong in Manager and masser and trusts and \$1 belong in Manager and masser and trusts and \$1 belong in Manager and masser and trusts.

to and manages a total of time equily income funds, which had total gross assets of approxi-

MASS manages a total of nine equity income funds, which had total gross assets of approximately (4.4) belien as at 31 December 1996, of which see transit originally in the LIK Gross distribution yields on these on transit as at 31 December 1996 ranged from 4.6% in 5.6%. These vibrition is well above the yield on the FTSE All Share hides of the dark as authorized the print of the FTSE All Share hides of the form, as authorized the great LIK eight income und must is The MASS Dividend Fund, as authorized that they had established in Many 1964 and was valued at 5.1.2 belien as at 31 December 1996. The which fund has performed very storage over the years as one to seen from Figure 1, MASS Dividend Fund has performed very storage over the years as one to seen from Figure 1. Since the Lumbh of The MASS Divisiond Fund at Many 1964, income has grown by 1,579.5% and

Since the listing in the second of 1,874.0% and 1,874.0% are second in second of 1,874.0% and intercept of \$1,000 in The Melia Devictoral Fund at learning would, \$2,37 December 1996. An execution of \$1,000 in The compares to a similar investment in the socionarios. It is not have been worth 025.520. This compares to a similar investment in \$24.24 over the same part of the FTSE AB Share bades, which would have grown to \$24.24 over the same part of the MADE EMPLOYER IS THE ORIGINAL OF SELECT ARCHITECTURE OF THE TOP TH 8 growing stream of dividend income from M&G High incomers porticile will be an essential growing sustain or cavitation income much make high undersor performs with the consequences of the growing and capital growth; and relevestment of income by investing can substantially enhance capital performance. A locality to relevest income is a common feature of PEPs.

The Directors believe that the income style of Investment will read in an attractive balance

THE MAG SECOND DUAL OFFERS Summary of the Torms of the MASO Second Dual Offers MSG High Income amounted Offers for all the Income and capital shares of MSG Second

which they mentione annual cours for all the seconds and capus while or while of the Assays 1997.

The MSSG Second Dual Otters are being made by SBC Warburg on behalf of MSSG High Income. Under the MSSG Second Dual Offers, the holders of MSSG Second Dual Shares are being offered the right to be issued and adotted Shares on the following besse:

The Capital Other
For each M&G Second Deal Capital Share — One "C" Share
Each "C" Share has rights which seek to replicate the capital rights of an M&G Second Dual
Capital Share, Each "C" Share will, following the winding up or earlier reconstruction of M&AC
Second Dual, convert into such marker of Package Units as shall have a net asset value on the
Calculation Date expect to 103% of the net asset value of one "C" Share less the stamp duty paid
by M&G High Importation of its acquisition of an M&G Second Dual Capital Share.

by Mass High Income on his acquisition or an Mass Second Dual Capital Share.

The Income Other
For each M&G Second Dual Income Share. One "I Share
Each "I Share has the right to devidents equivalent to those which may be paid on an M&G
Second Dual Income Share. Each "I Share will, following the whiting up or earlier reconstruction
of M&G Second Dual, convert this such number of Package Units as shall frave a net asset value
on the Calculation Duite equal to 103% of the net asset value of one "I Share less the stemp duty
paid by M&G High Income on its acquisition of an M&G Second Dual Income Share.

The number of Package Units in which an accepting M&G Second Dual Shareholder will
become antitied will not be known until the Calculation Data after the whiting up or earlier
reconstruction of M&G Second Dual startholder's enhaltement to Package Units will be rounded up
to the newset whole number of Package Units.

each accepting MEG Second Dual strareholder's enhibement to Package Limbs will be rounded up to the nearest whole number of Package Limbs.

The MEG Second Dual Shares will be acquared free from lians, charges and encumbrances and together with all rights now or subsequently attaching to them, including the right to all dividends and other distributions declared, made or paid in respect of them after 17 January 1997 other than the first interim devicend of 18.1 p declared on the MEG Second Dual Income Shares on 13 December 1996 in relation to the six month period to 30 November, 1996, Such dividend shall be relatined by the MEG Second Dual Income Other. This dividend was paid on 7 February 1997 to the holders of MEG Second Dual Income Other. This dividend was paid on 7 February 1997 to the holders of MEG Second Dual Income Other. This dividend was paid on 7 February 1997 to the holders of MEG Second Dual Income Shares on the register at the close of business on 3 January 1997.

Based on SEC Wardsung's estimates of the market value of the "C" Shares and "T Shares had they been in laste on 15 January 1997 (the lastest practicable data before publication of the liteting Particulars) the MEG Second Dual Others value MEG Second Dual at approximately £76.3 million.

E78.3 million.

Relationship between MAS High Income and MAS Second Dual

Following the acquisition of MAS Second Dual Sharen pursuant to the MAS Second Dual

Officers, MASC High Income may become a significant shareholder of MAS Second Dual officers, MASC High Income may become a significant shareholder of MASC Second Dual officers, MASC High Income's holding of MASC Second Dual officers, MASC High Income's holding of MASC Second Dual Shares car
cess 50% or less of the widnin glights exercisable at general meetings of MASC Second Dual, in accordance with a requirement of the Penel on Talcowers and Margors, MASC High Income has 
confirmed that, in those circumstances and urless the Panel on Talcovers and Margors other
was permits, MASC High Income will not exercise any of the voting rights attaching to any of the 
MASC Second Dual Strares which it acquires pursuant to the MASC Second Dual Offers in respect 
of a resolution proposed at a Seneral Meeting or a meeting of any class of stareholder of MASC 
Second Dual relating to any general offer, scheme of errangement or reconstruction if such offer 
or scheme includes a cash afternative on no less twourable terms than would be achieved on a 
winding up of MASC Second Dual.

As a gentificant strareholder of MASC Second Dual NASC High Income has exercised.

As a significant stareholder of MASS Second Dual, MASS High Income has assured MASS could Dual start-

sond Dual stat:

(a) it will not seek to change M&G Second Dual's Articles of Association, including in particular the provisions relating to the winding up of M&G Second Dual or to put M&G Second Dual into series winding up;

(b) it will not seek to alter M&G Second Dual's easiting investment or dividend policy; and

(c) it will maintain a board of M&G Second Dual's easiting investment or dividend policy; and

pendent of the Manager, Manager was severe user on which a fregung of the directors are inde-pendent of the Manager. Manager with the confirmed that they will use their res-sonable endeavours to manager MASS Second Dual's investment trust status and in particular the listing of the M&B Second Dual Strees.

CAPTICAL STRUCTURE

A split capital investment trust has more than one class of share capital. Split capital investment trust has more than one class of share capital. Split capital investment trusts are designed to appeal to investment whether in income, a prefetermined amount of capital or capital growth Shares in split capital investment trusts often trade in write (comprising a combination of the relation trusts underlying shares in split capital investment trusts often trade in write (comprising a combination of the relation trusts) underlying shares has in the case of the Package Units), they have the characteristics of ordinary shares in an investment trust without a split capital.

to an investment bust without a split capital.

Capital Structure Summary

Shares issued purposent to the Offers and the Placing.

The holowing classes of Share and be asseed pursuant to the Offers and the Placing.

Zero Dividend Shares which offer a predetermined rate of return, equivalent to 9.5% a year, in the form of capital beside on an entitlement to 122.85p on the winding up of MASG High Income at the end of its placine. If year is, however, and not winding up of the Company and which carry the high to receive at MASG High Income and complet to the nights of 11 Shares issued under the MAGG Secret Division 12 and income subject to the nights of 15 Shares saved under the MAGG Secret Division (Fig. 22). Another Shares and income Shares jand, prior to Conversion, the C. Shares and I Shares and Income Shares jand, prior to Conversion, the C. Shares and I Shares have their than the structure of the transfer of the Another Shares and income Shares jand, prior to Conversion, the C. Shares and I Shares have their first theory.

Strates issued pursuant to the M&G Second Dusi Offers: The informing classes of State will be issued pursuant to the MAG Second Duci Offices.

Underly classes of State will be issued pursuant to the MAG Second Duci Offices.

Underly make these rights remain seek to reflect the underlying entidements of MAG Second Duci Offices. States and which, following the wording up or earlier reconstruction of MAG Second Duci, with contest and large States, income Shares and Capital Shares, and

1. Shares, whose have native which seek in reflect the underlying entitlements of MAG Second Data Income Shares and which incomes the working up or water reconstruction of MAG Second Data, will content can be a Charles Stones Shares with Colonial Stones.

MAG Second Data's expected to be worked up in January or February, 1998. cription of the Stares and the Units

The hard of the Shares and little are more fully described in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part V The highs of the shades and land are if he half, beschold in partyraphs 3 and 4 of Part V of the Listing Particulars.

Package Unite: The Package Units are designed to other than notices both a growing occume and capital growth over the thail the must the Package Units are surviver to orderary phanes in an orderant hash whom a 50° capital structure. Package Units can package Units and qualify the consistency of these decomps commence. Package Units can

The spiritual and a public production from the spiritual production of the Package Units and the spiritual production of the Package Units was travely as mobile assumable armae and grown dividence yield of 5.3%.

In common and Extension Unites. The fortune and Storagh Units are units consisting of one income sand Extension Unites. The fortune and Storagh Units are units also Storagh Storagh and the Storagh Stor Still the tree steeping Steet Tre traine and Graph Und and rave an indial economic

Special from the unitering States. The internal and States for the will have an initial estimated associated growth of the States from the States for the Uniterial States is easily carry, not entirement to income make principly in recognization that other classes of States subject to the rights of the C States and the US States principle Companies. The cross pay a conferency of each from States principle is conference to the conference of the states principle in the cross pay a conference of the states principle. 122.83224; et 17 March 2017, MAG high trustre a plant et autorig un sate. Repairment in tall gall require a compound rate of growth or the set assets of MASC high troothe over its planted. The of 18 Th is yet.

In other is a yet, the control of the contro

Stages Directors on the internet ancres are be past use on the person of 100 on the winding the Zero Director's Stages Directors account the right to a country enternet of 100 on the winding the Zero Directors of the person of

are zero contracts down they also have use right to a bettle entered to industry and on the second of the big house. Presented in the war replied a control of the big growth in the net assets of MSB flight accurate over to partners the of 4.19% all rear.

The principal States Houses of the Copins States Aut receive on mother out on a simple made be entered to all the sources possible of a first source states of MSB flight mother control out on a simple of the DE copins of the Zero Big States and the mother of the copins of the DE copies and the first source of the Zero Big States and the first source of the Copins States and the DE copins of th benefit from asset gearing an or will indeed be 15 times. The degree of asset gearing deter-mines the extra risk or the laminus entities flactus Shares hat asset lave are result on a res-or test in the subject that time assets of 1955 man from the content of disputs Shares and

or led in the value of the line, assets of MSS might havine indicate or Labraid States will now testine a stability property where the company of which represent any or company of the major of MSS major income het assets one of places that it is a space of the MSS sector is used offers the desired of States will only be space that they contain entirements are equivalent to those that it have had if they had remained as holders of MSS Sector is used Capital States until MSS Sector busic Sandary and or senter recommendant free, will remembe no accome our on the sector of MSS Sector in the major of the major of the company of MSS Sector in the major of the major of the company of the sector of the major of the sector of the sector of the MSS Sector of the officers of the sector of the sector of the MSS Sector of the officers of the sector of the MSS Sector of the officers of the sector of the MSS Sector of the officers of the sector of the MSS Sector of the officers of the other of the sector of the MSS Sector of the officers of the other of the sector of the MSS Sector of the officers of the other of the sector of the MSS Sector of the officers of the other other of the other of the other of the other other other of the other o on the adjustment of the MSB Section Dual Capital Share under the MSB Section Dual Offers. The Zero Dinderol Shares, Empire Shares and Capital Shares arising on Conversion will rain, part passes with the Shares of those casses them in select MSB has apprecion in Jack en a nonthibution will be adjusted the MSB has been a contribution of MSBB High Income to establish the next asset Jacks of the C. Shares on Conversion to be enhanced

by 3%.
If Shares 1 Shares will bry be issued under the M&C Second Duar Offers Houses or i This flatters, I is started who any the secure that their income and deplay entitle ments per share are equivalent to those they around here had her income and deplay entitle ments per share are may remained as indigers of M&G Second Local bosones. Shares, They had be entitled to receive the same chapters which they should have received if they flat remained as nations of M&G Second Local income Shares until that companys medicing as at its except reconstruction for Conversion following the among up or earlier reconstruction of M&G Second Dual leach 1. Share are converting the small number of earlier reports that in 1846 Section Dual seach 1966 will convert into such number of Package thats as static have a ner asset have environment to 1966 of the ner asset value of one 1 Share less that stating duty pact ty. M&G high higher on the accusation of one M&G Section busingtone Share under the M&G Section Dual Others The Caro Dunderd Shares income Shares and Capital Shares around on conversion of the 1 Shares will have have make use the Shares of those classes then in state M&G Ras agreed to make a contribution to M&G High Income to enable the net asset value of the 1 Shares on (Conversion to be enhanced by the Duration and Rights on a winding upt M&G High Income will have a planned life of accom-mental 20 to a the con-

the Articles of Association. The Directors are conduct unless absoined by a Special Resolution of MSG High theome and build Europeanan Aesolution of each class of Shan contents an extraordinary general meeting of MSG High Payone to the hist of intending parts to 17 Magna 2011, at which is easily and will be Englaved to and of MSG High leading. this proposal is designed to ensure that modern of the Component Shares have an opportunity to reasse their integrated to the consistency. These who work in favour of the resolution will considered be deemed to have such number of votes as is one more than the number of votes necessary to carry the

resources.

Should enter an offer be made to the no deep of the Sem Diodenc Shares on on before 1.

Manch 2017 or a resourcen on passed sent chang a sinterne of analogement or ribes reorganisation of MASS high information in a large vision of MASS high information in a large vision of MASS high information in a large vision freduces for the morters of the Zero sation of MAG High informer which in either case, which hadde for the holders of the Zero Disched Stores at annuary in cash at least could to that the Loudo have received on the warming up of MAG High income on on immediately, prictly, 17 Mages 2017, then the holders of the Zero Dis data Shares will be dissertantiated in respect of larger and the time of MAG High latters and Ling the measure of the or of membranes, price 1017 Mages 2017 to consider the measure of the consideration of the

the rasolution to which the unique recommendation of the calleged us of \$550 mign income was Voting Rights: Based not resolutions retaining to the calleged us of \$550 mign income was described above, horsess of the Shales with have the believe of unique normal sections of Dem Content Shales are not entired to use at several Meanings of M&G High Hollests of Dem Content Shales are not entired to use at several Meanings of M&G High Hollests of Dem Content Shales are not entired to use at several Meanings of M&G High Hollests of Dem Content Shales are not entired to use at several Meanings of M&G High Hollests of Dem Content Shales are not entired to use at several Meanings of M&G High Hollests of Dem Content Shales are not entired to use at several Meanings of M&G High Hollests of Dem Content Shales are not entired to use at several Meanings of M&G High Hollests of Dem Content Shales are not entired to use at several Meanings of M&G High Hollests of Dem Content Shales are not entired to use at several Meanings of M&G High Hollests of Dem Content Shales are not entired to use at several Meanings of M&G High High High Shales are not entired to the second secon represent Lett 1 and an appeal denied to thou II into a Commission make may an accompanion of the moral press which for the acceptance of an accompanion of Association of 1850 in the commission of 1850 in the commission of the moral property of the commission of t

Entered Meanings of MASI in this come in account the codes of leadh class of Shalls are entred to one on any material change of macrosommer the codes of leadh class of Shalls are entred to one on a projection throughout the comment. an applicabilities of each case of Shale are entried to are an animaterial change of intestment oxide, which mount cases Miss and integers in cases to be a displaying investment fruction of the same of the section of the case of supplying investment fruction of the case of the case

Subject to the science reprograms on a wrong up the uniform above, where the holders Cistantes including the 1 Sharesi are entired to more the learn have one note on a showing heres some note on a showing heres some note into a respect of each Share here on a publish. In that it is a result of their righer must not each share he seem of a publish in some indicated and each of the search of th

must not asset value to persist. C. Shares will have the surfur whicher of vales as may be ever case on rescent of seven or time. Shares are most Caption 5 men.

Fritters lessues of Sharess The Directive have over good currorm, exprining at MSG High nothings for Shares Sharess The Directive for cash have continued shares equivalent in appropriate to 10% of MSG men to come a state of the cash have been shared to the company of MSG Section 10%. These cashes provided and the MSG Section 10% of the company of the MSG Section 10% of the cash of the company of the MSG Section 10% of the cash o and the second of the second second and the second second

States entone Shares and Cando Shares

States entone Shares and Cando Shares

Where this are first on MSG PEP the terms of the PEP manager to appear

Where this are first on MSG PEP the terms of the PEP manager to appear maney 242 121 e for investment leasting to make thors by the checking intention that any grad Gradon Lings of the makes of subscribing for make until the entering intention that any gradon and the checking in the makes of subscribing for make until the entering intention that any gradon and the checking in the checki grational shape on the property and sense, any new real partition of the consumer manager than the sense of t

General: The value of the Stocks into the second light control from them can fluctuate General: The value of the State of the Notional Control of the Australia of the Indianal to the sign of Later the California of the Australia of the State of the Australia of t

Enterties a recommendation one recommendation with the national regularization and the planned of street recommendation.

year its. Represent at the projected redemption value at the and of the planned Initial 20 year life will require a compound rate of growth in the ract assets of M&B High Income over this period of 1.87% per annual.

Income Stances Underlying invasioners portion. Deviced cuts within the portion could accessed yated the vicinity affect the planned initial 20 year life with require a compound rate of prowth in the next asset of M&B High Income Stances will depend on dividend growth to december yated the value of the planned initial 20 year life with require a compound rate of growth in the next asset of M&B High Income over this period of 4.19% per annum.

Capital Shares: The entitiement of the Capital Shares rates behind that of the Zero Dividend Shares and the Income Shares. The Initial next asset value of the Capital Shares will be 10p etch. The primary leves ment objective of M&B High Income is to achieve an above mergage and increasing income over the life of the Company, Art rates of growth in the next assets of M&B High Income of less than 4.19% per annum, the redescription value of the Capital Shares would be zero. The price performance of the Capital Shares would be zero. The price performance of the Capital Shares would be zero. The price performance of the Capital Shares would be zero. The price performance of the Shares the tender of the Capital Shares would be zero. The price performance of the Shares and the Shares to the extent that such shares will arise upon Conversion of the "C Shares and the T Shares to the extent that such shares will arise upon Conversion of the "C Shares and the T Shares to the extent that such shares will arise on Conversion of the "C Shares and the T Shares to the extent that such shares will arise on Economical to the "C Shares and the T Shares to the extent that such shares will arise on the content that the tender of the Capital Shares will also apply to the "C Shares and the T Shares to the extent that such shares will arise and the "Shares to the extent that the proce

Directors of MAG High Income
The Directors of MAG High Income, (and of whom are non-mencilive, are no notices.)
Premais (Frank) Care, Chairman, (and 51) chief associate of Carr Sinopards Limited from 1931 to 1933, He is also chairman of the City of Outcot Investment Trust PLC, and a director of The Smaller Companies Investment Trust PLC. Prior in 1991, he was a director of Capel-Cure Myers, stockholaris.

Virture Bazzalgette, (aged 45) who is intereging director of the Macronics which he interest.

Capal-Cure Myers, stocktrokers.

Whiten Baselpette, layed 459 who is managing director of the Manager which he joined in 1996. His previous positions include head of UK Equities and UK Pension Funds at LST Asset Management Limited and standaging director of Pension Funds at LST Asset Management Limited.

Aliax Management Limited.

Aliax Management Limited.

Aliax Management Limited are sentrally provided to the vertical for Reviews, Promoted Meastly and the Sunday Dilegraph, where he was City Editor from 1986-1988. He is a non-executive director of Melody Racido, a wholly comed subsidiary of Manager PLC.

Devid Management Limited sentral pulse of the Chairman and the proposed non-executive chairman of MASS Second Dust) and of the Manager. He joised MASS in 1972.

Iam Trother, laged 53) who was until July 1996, a director of Son Alliance Group PLC where he sets a number of sentral positions including Manager Director of both Sun Alliance Investment Management. He joined Alliance Assurance in 1954 which manager with Sun Alliance (now features a Royal & Sun Alliance Know features a Royal & Sun Alliance Know features a Royal & Sun Alliance Know features.

as tryle or your resonant Management Limited, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of MASG Group MASG Investment Management Limited, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of MASG Group PLC, will be the Management services of 1% (plus WI) of net seeks. The amount of this fee will be shafed to evoid any double charging by MASG in respect of MASG Report Dual. The Management Agreement is temphrable on one year's notice, such holice not to be given before 17 March 2000. It is intended that numbing expenses will initially be attributed one think as to revenue and two

THE OFFER FOR SUBSCRIPTION.

The Offer for Subscription is open until 3.00 p.m. on 7 March 1997. The Offer for Subscription is open until 3.00 p.m. on 7 March 1997. The Offer for Subscription is open for applications only for Package Units, Income and Growth Units and Zero Dividend Shares and, subject as set out below, is not being underwritten. Zero Dividend Shares, Income Shares and Capital Shares can only be issued in equal numbers. Applications for income and Growth Units may have in be scaled back insofer as they exceed the aggregate number of applications for Zero Dividend Shares and Capital Shares, applications for Zero Dividend Shares and Capital Shares, applications for Zero Dividend Shares may also have the acated back.

clent demand for income Shares and Capital Shares, applications for care territorial states have to be scaled back.

The terms and conditions of, and the procedure for, application under the Offer for Subscription are set out at the end of the document. Application forms for income and Exowith Units and Package Units are set out at the end of this document. Application forms for Zero Ohnderd Shares can be requested from M&S by calling 0950 900 670. It you wish to apply for Package Units and/or income and Growth Units and/or Zero Deridend Shares under the Differ for Subscription, you should carefully read the terms and conditions before completing an accomise-tens form

epperation form.

Application forms, accomplanted by a chaque or a haston's draft for the appropriate amount, must be received by #866 Financial Services Limited of 1866 House, Victoria Road, Cheleusford CM1 178 or delivered by hand only to M&G Financial Services Limited, 7th Floor, 3 Minster Court, Great Tower Street, London EC38 7XA, is each case, by no later than 3.00 p.m. on 7 March 1997.

The intermediaries Ofter Package Units and Income and Growth Units are being made available under the intermediaries Offer together with Zero Devidend Shares, Income Shares and Capital Shares. The intermediaries Offer is not being underwritten and applications may have to be scaled back. Indee the immediaries Offer, Intermediaries will be able in make aggregated applications on betealf of their citiests and/or applications on their own account. Intermediaries will be entitled to a commission grayable by MASS) of 3% of the value, at the issue price, of the Units and the Component Shares allotted under the Intermediaries Offer. Application forms to apply for Component Shares and Units under the Intermediaries Offer. Application the offices of SSC Warburg, who are also acting as receiving agents in the Intermediaries Offer. The Intermediaries Offer closes at 3.00 p.m. on 7 March 1997.

The Placing

As part of the Issue, SBC Worburg has agreed to procure subscribers, or talking which itself to subscribe. In: Zero Dividend Shares up to the number of Income and Growth Units applied for in the Offer for Subscription (up to a maximum of 100 raillion Zero Dividend Shares). Furthermore SBC Vitarburg will use its reasonable endeavours to procure places for income Shares and Coatal Shares and for Inther Zero Dividend Shares. Places will be entitled to a compension (psyable by MSG) of 3% of the value, at the issue price, of the Component Shares allotted under the Placing Shares subscribed for in the Placing will not be eligible for transfer into a PEP.

The Units and Component Shares will be eligible for settlement through CREST. The Units and Component Shares allocated under the Offers and the Placing will be in certificated form.

ntion of Units will be made and defin tive certificates for Shares and Units in certificated from will be nosted on 17 March 1997. It is

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Concerned

PERSONAL EQUITY PLANS

Under current legislation, the Strares and the Unds will qualify for inclusion in general PEPs.

The Company orients to continue to manage its affairs so as to be a Qualifying investment Trust.

The benefit of PEPs. The attraction of a general PEP is that returns from qualifying strares feed when it are free from income and capital gains too. An investor may only substribe to one general PEP or each ray year. The current subscription limit for a general PEP is \$5,000 to each at year PEP subscriptions must normally be made in cash but shares allotted as a result of a public offer which are rainsferred into the PEP within 42 days of the allotment directioning the day of allotment of the relevant strates will qualify, in the case of a martisel couple, each spouse is treated securative so that the couple can between them subscribe a maintain or of \$10.000 for treated separately so that the couple can between them subscribe a maximum of £12,000 to transfer into general PEPs for each tax year. nt Shares or Units acquired under the Offers into a gen

The lest date for transfer of Component Stares or Unite acquired under the Offens into a general PEP for the current tax year is 5 April 1997 and for the 1997/98 tax year is 27 April 1997. Bighibility for PEPs of Units and Component Stares acquired under the Offens Into any of the Offens (closing as they do near the end of the 1996/97 fax year is such as to facilitate the process of 26,000 of Units or Component Stares into a general PEP for either or both the 1996-97 or the 1997/98 tax year up to 5 April 1997 (Inclusive) and far the 1997/98 tax year are 1996-97 fax year up to 5 April 1997 (Inclusive) and far the 1997/98 tax year petween 6 April 1997 and 27 April 1997 (Inclusive). To comply with histord Revenue requirements decrements effecting this transfer must be received by the PEP Manager by these dates. PEP managers will also be able to apply for Units in the Offer for Subscription and Units and Component Stares in the Intermedianes Offer on behalf of existing plans. General Applicants intending to transfer that share conflictions will not be despatched by MASS Hope Income until 17 March 1997 Certain PEPs are subject to a seven-day cooling-off pendo celore the PEP can be opered and stares transferred unto it. However, Applicants should note that all applications for Units and Stares transferred unto it. However, Applicants should note that all applications for Units and Component Stares are investigated and will remain valid irrespective of any cooling of its closed on the laws currently in force and on MASA High Incomes understanding of the incland Revenue's Interpretation of it. It is subject to any change in the PEP regaristions.

TERMES AND COMMITTORS OF APPUCATION UNDER THE GETER FUR SUBSCRIPTION

TERMS AND COMOTIONS OF APPLICATION UNDER THE GATER FOR SUBSCRIPTION ppincation, each Asplicant warrants that his Application Form is addressed and agrees with M&G High Income and SBC Warburg as follows:-

Other to subscribe 
Each Applicant offers to subscribe for the number of Package Units and/or income and 
Growth Units and/or Zero Dividend Stares specified in the relevant application form for any 
smaller number for which his application is accepted at 100p per Package Usil, 80p per

the Listing Particulars, these terms and conditions and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of Mess High Income.

Intercepting of the Application may not be newsked before 31 Merch 1987.

Acceptance of Applications may not be newsked before 31 Merch 1987.

Acceptance of Applications may not be newsked before 31 Merch 1987.

Acceptance of Applications are specified in the Applications forms or may be rejucted as the new specified in the Application forms or may be rejucted as entermined. In respect of times that or Zero Dividend Street for which an Application shed be considered in the Application shed be considered. At the Generation of Mess High Income, either (1) by the required notice to the London Street, at the Generation of Mess High Income, either (1) by the required notice to the London Street, at the Generation of Mess High Income and Control of the Message and not reduced to the London Street for the bests of allocation (an which case such acceptance on the London Street for the bests of allocation in the New York of the Application of acceptance when the notice of the Present of the Application is such and binding for to ment any other applications in accordance with the present of Message in the Application is accordance with the present of the Application in Applying for Package Units, Income and Growth Units or Zero Dividend Streets.

Incompanies and arrows on zero Devocano States.

Conditionally

The contract created by the acceptance of an Application as set out in Condition 3 will be conditional upon the admission of the Component Shartes, the Package Units and the income and covert thists, assued and to be issued under the Other for Subscription, to the Others List of the Landon Shock Bottange and such admission becoming offective in exceptance with the Listing Ruise. By the later than 17 March 1997 (or such later date, not being facer than 31 March 1997 as M&C High Income, the Messager and SSC Westmang may agree). If this Condition is not satisfied, money received by or on behalf of M&C High Income will be deaft with in accordance with Condition 5(t).

with in accordance with Condition 5(th).

Payment

(a) MLG High Income reserves the right to present for payment all chaques and benker's drafts received patents to the Applications on or other 7 March 1997.

(b) Each Applicant wermans that he is not under the age of 18 and that his remainance will be homoured on first presentation and agrees that, if it is not so hosoured, that Applicant will not be dottled to receive a share certificate for the (tolks and/or Zero Unidend Shares applied for or is employ or receive any rights or distributions in respect of such tinhs and/or Zero Orlefeed Shares unders and until he makes payment in cleaned fature for such Units and/or Zero Orlefeed Shares and watch payment is acceptant by MLG High Income (which acceptance shall be in its absolute discretion and may be on the basis that the Applicant independent of such allows of stat Applicant's remittances to be honoured on first presentation) and that, at any time prior to enconditional acceptance by MLG High Income of such late approach to respect of such limits and/or Zero Devidend Shares, MLG High Income may levitional projudice to any other rights it may have a make the Applicant will not be entitled to any refund or payment in respect from MLG High Income or select the Component Strees and may allot them to some other person, in which case the Applicant will not be entitled to any refund or payment in respect flow MLG High Income or select the Component Strees and integration (a) it are entitled pending clearance of the relevant remittance; (c) it any Applicant in not acceptance or its environment.

rematizance; placetion is not excepted, or if any contract created by acceptance does not became unconditional, or if the Application is excised down, or if any Application for monetary value is not satisfied exactly, the application moneya at as the case may be, the balance of the amount peld on application will be returned without interest by post pat the risk of the Applicant). In the meetaline, application moneya will be retained by NESE financial Services Limberd as "Receiving Application, money may be retained by NESE financial Services Limberd as "Receiving Application, money may be retained by NESE fligh theorem pending any verification of identity which is or may be required for the Manney Lauradoring Regulationary verification and, if any such verification is not continued to the satisfaction of MESE fligh income and SEC Warburg, such application moneys or the balance featers will be refunded (without whereast by reharding the relevant moneys or the balance featers will be refunded without whereast by reharding the relevant moneys or the banks or other account on which the Applicant's cheque or other remultance was tiravin.

Despatch of documents

Applicant's chaque or other remittance was trawn.

Despatch of documents.

Lityds Barik Registres may send by document(s) of title for the number of Package Linda, lacome and Growth Units or Zero Dividend Starres for which Applications are accepted by post to the address of the Applicant (or, in the case of joint applicate), that of the Nest-named Applicant) and in authorised to procure that the name of the relevant Applicant (together with the name) of any joint Applicant(s) is placed on the register of members of NASC High Income. All documents will be sent at the Applicants' risk and may be sent by post Loyds Barik Registrans shall be entitled to withhold any such certificates pending any verification of identity which it is or may be required for the Mainey Laundeling Regulations 1993. Reliance only on Listing Particulars and Main-Prospectus; the Applicant shall be opportunity to read the Listing Particulars and Main-Prospectus; the Applicant shall be deserted to have that notice of all Information and representations contained therein.

Applicant shall be deemed to have man house that he is not relying on any infor-tained therein.

(b) in making the Application, the Applicant advocatedges that he is not relying on any infor-mation or representations other than those contained in the Listing Particulars and the Mini-Prospectus and accordingly agrees that no person responsible solely or jointly for the Listing Particulars and the Mini-Prospectus or any part thereof will have any listifully for any such other information or representation.

relations and the approximation or representation.

Basis of allocation

The basis of allocation will be decided by M&G High Income after consultation with SBC Warburg. The right is reserved, notwithstanding the basis so determined, to reject in whole and in part and scale down any application.

Miscelaneous
(a) All Applications, acceptances of Applications and contracts resulting therefrom under the Offer for Subscription shall be governed by and construct in accordance with English Law and each Applicant is deemed to submit to the brisidiction of the English Coarts.
(b) Each Applicant authorises MAS Financial Services Limited, Lloyds Bank Registrass and SBC Warburg or any other person authorised by them, as his agent, to do at things necessary to effect registration of any Component Shares subscribed by him into his name and authorises any representatives of MAS Financial Services Limited, Lloyds Bank Registrare or of SBC Warburg to execute any document required therefor.
(c) Applications for Units and Zero Dividend Starts will remain valid even if the Applicant attangles to renounce or transfer them had a PEP which is subsequently wolded or not established.

anisages to resource or transfer mean than a PEP which is subsequently woulded or not established.

(d) Each Applicant's agreement as described in these Terms and Conditions, to the extent that it relates to matthers which could be applicable before any acceptance of such Applicant its Applicant, forms per of a collecteral contract which becomes thoring on the Applicant with Applicant in the Applicant of the Component Shares prior to 17 March 1987 to any persons except in accordance with the Listing Particulars, the MEES Second Dual Offers and the Mini-Prospectus.

(e) Notwithstanding that the Application Form provides (in Note 3) that applications on other the Offer for Subscription must be for a whole multiple of one thousands pounds, MEES High income reserves the right to varie this requirement or to accept Applications for Units or Zero Dividend Shares in other multiples in addition to round thousands.

(i) Each Applicant has read and confirms he has complete with Condition 10.

(ii) The rights and remedies of SSC Marburg and MEES High income under these Terms and Conditions are in addition to any rights and remedies which would otherwise be available in either of them, and the exercise or partial resercise of one will not prevent the exercise of others.

(h) If a person signs an Application Form on behalf of another person or cor

deemed to undertake to enclose their power of altomosy or a copy thereof duty certified by a solicitor where required by the "Notes on how to Complete the Application Form" and to war-rest that he has due authority to do so and such other person or corporation will be bound ned also to have given the confirmations, warran (i) Each Applicant agrees to provide MSS High Income and I tion as they may require in consection with the application. 10. Oversess Applications

evision reason repeated a copy of the Listing Particulars or the Mini-Prospectus in any tent-tory may treat the same as constituting an evolution or an other to him, nor should be in any

tory may treat the same as constituting an nurtiation or an offer to him, nor should be in an event use Such Application Form unless, in the relevant territory, such an ionitation or offe could bestuliv be made to him or such Ano could revivally or meate to man or such Appelation from could teathfall be used vertical con-texending of any registration or other flegal requirements. It is the responsibility of any per-son outside the United Kingdom withing to make an Application hereunder to satisfy himself as to but observance of the laws of the relevant tentiory in connection therewith, including obtaining any figuration governmental or other consents, observing any other formalities required to be observed in such territory and paying any Issue, transfer or other taxos

required to be paid in such territory.

(b) The Package Units, income and Growis Units and the Component Shares have not been, and will not be, registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and subject to certain exceptions, may not be offered or sold in the United States. In addition, MAG High income has not been, and will not be, registered under the United States Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended.

Partics and Times.

and times set out herein may be altered by M&G High Income and S&C Warburg to be consistent with the Offer for Subscription, Intermediation Offer, Placing and writing Agreement (as the same may be varied from time to time). If the value of the shares adjutted to an Applicant exceeds £10,000, the vertification of

If the value of the shares allotted to an Applicant exceeds £10,000, the vertication of identity requirements of the Money Laundering Regulations 1993 will apply and verification of the identity rate relationships will be regulated. A failure to provide the necessary evidence of identity may result in the rejection of your allotment or in delays in the despatch of a share certificate. In order to avoid the, you should identity make payment by means of a chapter drawn by the person named in Box 1. If this is not practicable and you use a chapte drawn by a third party, hadding society chapter or harder's draft, you should; (in write the name and address of the person named in Box 1 on the back of the chapte, building society chapte or banker's draft and case of birth of that person in Box 1; (b) if a publishing society chapte or harder's draft is used, ask the building society at hank to endure on the chapte or harder's draft is used, ask the building society at hank to reduce on the chapte of the person case of the chapte of building society at hank to be a person whose building society at least as published account to being deblact; et if you are motion the somicarition as appet for one or more necessors, indicate in Rex 1.

encurs on the chaque the name and account number of the person whose building society or bank account is being debied; (c) if you are making the application as agent for one or motre persons, indicate in Box 1 whether you are a UK or EC regulated person or institution, give a bank or broken) and spectify your status. If you are not a UK or EC regulated person or institution, you should contact. Clive Shelton, MSG Presonated Services Limited ((i.e. 01246 206205) and seek guidennee. If you deliver your Application Forms; by hand, you should answer that you have with you avidence of the other bearing with not protocolours of the personal contents.

e and Growth Unit and/or 20p per Zero Dividend	Shere, as the case may be, subject to	
APPLICAT	ION FORM (For Income an	d Growth Units and Package Units only.)
Perconal Details	Application forms for Zero Dividend Share	s can be requested from MZG by calling 8890 608 670.

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1	Title, Mr/Mrs/Miss	/Ms/Other:				MAG HH	H	COME INVESTMENT TRUST PL.C.
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Price of Units — name make viter peace Ville irrevocably offer to subscribe for such number of Units of MAS High Income Investment Treat P.L.C. Parage lints Ext view 5 Par 1000 Listing Particulars dated 17th January, 1997. 80p VAVe enclose a chaque or banker's draft made payable to "Lloyds Bank Pic A/C MAG Offer,"

that relates to the sum of money entered below on the Terres and Conditions of Application set out in the crossed WC payee only'.

Uttle hereby apply to realize the above investment as specified above. Date:

Notes to help you complete your application form Mote to Present plant processes proc

Note 2. You may apply party with up to bring other people Desits about to peopleted for all juint application, Congruence of this, tettant changes, and conditiones will be send to the fact remed applicant on the bases of registration contain. A joint application contains a registrated to be proposed or temperated by a PSP.

Note 2. Sudgest to paragraph 8 of the Tenta's and Confidence of Applications must be first which must be first specially of one throughout contains. A joint application must be first which must be first specially of one throughout contains.

OFFER CLOSES 3.00 P.M. 7TH MARCH

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### WEEKEND MONEY LEGERS

### Well worth the wait

From Mr C.R. Hawkswell Sir, I wish to thank you and your correspondent Sara McConnell regarding an article in Weekend Money on July 13, 1996, as a result of which I have been able to achieve a pension for my wife. It has been of consider-

Thank you again. Yours faithfully. C. R. HAWKSWELL. Kells". Possingworth Park. Cross-in-hand, East Sussex.

It is up to you to claim entitlements at the right time, says Sara McConnell

### The wives who lose out



How Weekend Money highlighted the need to claim pensions for younger spouses

very far from the sort of soph-

### Double whammy of terminal bonuses

From Mr R.G. Smail Sir, While I agree with Peter Jackson (Time to stop the terminal decline of bonuses". Weekend Money Letters, February 8) in deploring the downward trend of terminal bonuses, in my opinion his figures are less than clear. For example, was the terminal bonus figure of 32.9 per cent he cited in 1996 in respect of an 18-year endowment or a 14year one, to make the best comparison with the quotation of 47.6 per cent on a 14-

year one he received in 1992? To quote "Let the buyer beware" seems appropriate here. Beware the grandiose claims made at the time of sale and be sceptical of the returns quoted. Mr Jackson, seeking certainty in his returns, should perhaps have invested an initial lump sum in gilts, and any subsequent annual amounts in the same period.

I was captivated by the two or three-figure returns "promised" by the endowment providers, and by the ever upward-pointing graphs. But 14 years on, I fear the final amount received will not even cover my mortgage. My own endowment provider could

not carry on its business inde- rest of them seems to me to be pendently and was rescued by a large insurer, with the result that a tiny "bonus" is to be paid over three years with no way that I can check that the normal annual bonus is not. eroded to pay this bonus.

The financial establishment which has presided over Barings, Barlow Clowes, BCCI, Blue Arrow, Morgan Grenfell,

istication in its products that consumers need, especially as the private sector now looks like taking a far greater share of, say, retirement provision, Or are we all facing payouts and pensions that can go down rather than up and even

what was out in? home income plans and all the

tors and huge pension and compensation payments to ou-sted directors, not to mention staff bonuses (for investment bankers) in the six or seven-figure range which we consumers can but dream of. Fund payments of much less than managers grace our television screens as they come and go I hear of golden hellos, from one lucrative appointment to the next, trailing grateful and respectful invest-It'll soon be fully ment banks in their wake. I see companies merging, demerging, being target or preda-tor in takeovers, the latest

> ies, with huge amounts being spent in City fees, administration, printing and postage and finally no doubt being sold overseas. For what? As a consumer I feel I have contributed more than enough to the financial services industry as a whole but even so I still have to contribute ever more to their crock of gold with the steady reduction of annual and terminal bonuses. Yours faithfully,

R. G. SMAIL,

13 Heybridge Avenue, SWI6.

golden parachutes, lucrative option deals, multi-year con-

tracts of employment for direc-

adherents of this regime being

our erstwhile building societ-

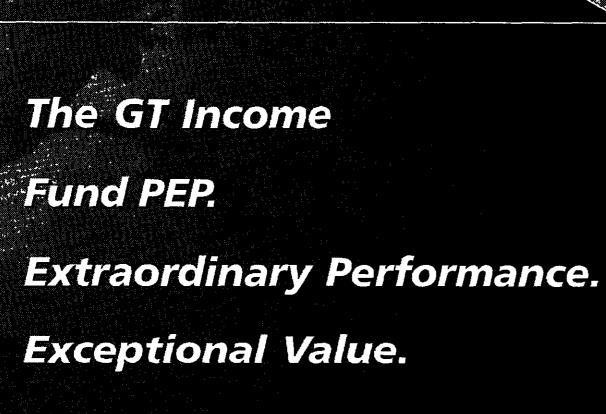


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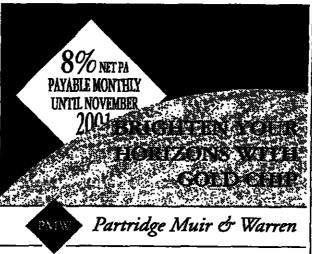
customers. For more information contact your IFA, call GT Global on 0800 212 274 or return the coupon.

\*Source: Micropal, offer-to-bid, net income reinvested UK Equity Income Secto All figures to 3 2.97. 1% discount only applies to Jump sum PEP investments until 1.5.97. Past performance is no guide to the future. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount originally invested. PEP legislation can change at any time and the value of tax concessions will depend on individual circumstances. The GT PEP is managed by GT Global Investment Funds Ltd. regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. The GT income Fund was launched in September 1973 and is managed by GT Global Fund Management Ltd (part of the LGT Group) which

is regulated by IMRO and is a member of AUTIF Issued by GT Global Global Investment Funds Ltd.

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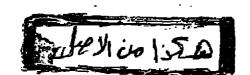
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### THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

### Take the time to weigh-up warrants

he benefits and poten-tial risks of investment trust warrants are discussed in the Association of Investment Trusts' latest factsheet. The guide explains how warrants work, plus what potential purchasers should look for. The factsheet emphasises that warrants are volatile and therefore highly speculative. Call 0171-431 5222

**ALL** higher-rate taxpayers should have some venture capital trusts as part of their portfolio because of their tax efficiency, according to a new guide published by The David Aaron Parnterhsip. The guide includes risk ratings of the 14 venture capital trusts currently on offer and gives "star ratings" for recommended trusts. For a copy of the guide, write to: The David Aaron Partnership, Shelton House, High Street, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, MK17 8SD. Enclose a cheque for £2. Offer closes March 15.

anuses

A GUIDE to personal equity plans has been updated to include the tax proposals set out in last year's Budget. The 38-page guide includes a brief history of Peps, explains how a Pep works and looks at Pep investment strategies. It also

looks at managed, self-select, single company and corporate Peps. For a free copy of the Investor's Portfolio Introduction to Peps, sponsored by Prudential, call 0800 252500L

BIRMINGHAM Midshires Building Society is offering a council tax valuation service. The service, which costs £70.50, offers homeowners the chance to check that the banding charge for their property is correct. The society will also assist in the handling of appeals for an additional £47 per hour. Call 01902 325172

■ A JARGON-FREE booklet about Peps has been produced by the Homeowners Friendly Society. The Plain English Guide to Peps explains how to choose a Pep and how to change your Pep plan manager. For a free copy, call 0800 210286.

■ PENDRAGON Publishing has produced a comprehensive guide to the pensions industry. People in Pensions. priced at £75, includes the details of more than 750 executives in the pensions sector. Call 0800 289520.

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Bristol & West BS 0800 901109 Stroud & Swindon BS 0800 618161	Direct Inst	Postal Notice	£50,000	6,60	Yl Interes
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DEDCONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly paym with insurance	ent on £3,00	00 for 3yrs insurance

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£120.02

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13.90%A

ce: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)

price

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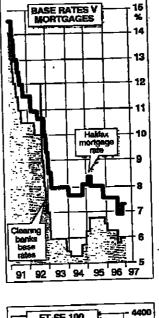
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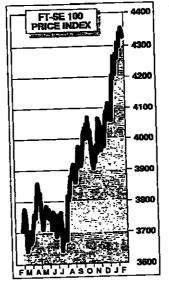
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3900	JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS	Male: Female:		Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 6
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380	Statistics co	omplied	by Lizar	ne Rose	

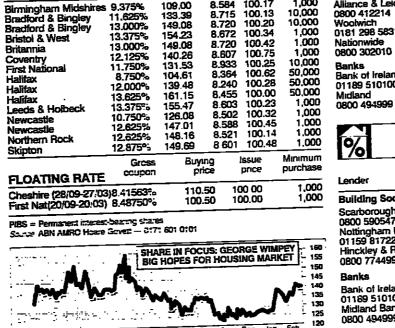
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Notes	Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
3% disc-1.3.98+ 3% cashback	Building Societ Bristol & West	iles 3.50	£15k+	95	3.75% discount for 12 months
3% disc-12 mths	0800 119955 Newbury	3.99	£15-150k	95	3% discount for 12 months
+ 3% cashback 3.90% discount for 1 year	01635 43676 Lambeth 0171 928 1331	3.99	£15-150k	95	3.25% disc for 12 months
6,50% disc 6 mth 3% disc 6 months	Banks Bnk of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc 6 mth 3% disc 6 mths
3% discount for 12 months	01189 510100 TSB Bank 0500 758000	3.51	£15k+	95	3.74% discount for 1 year
NS		and first-time	buyers tables t	<i>y Blay</i> 's G	Quides Ltd (01753 880482)

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### **GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS**

ANNUAL INCOME Rates as at February 28, 1997

1 Year  3,000		Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
3,000 Financial Assur 5,30 10,000 Hambro Assured 5,50 Hambro Assured 5,70  2 Years  1,000 Hambro Assured 4,60 3,000 ITT Lon & Edin 5,80 20,000 GE Financial Assur 5,90 50,000 GE Financial Assur 5,95  3 Years  1,000 Hambro Assured 5,05 3,000 ITT Lon & Edin 6,05  4 Years  1,000 Hambro Assured 5,50 3,000 ITT Lon & Edin 6,35  5 Years  1,000 Hambro Assured 5,50 6,35	1 Voor			
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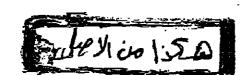
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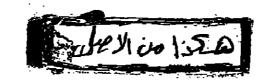
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	THE TIMES SATURDAY MARCH 1 1997		
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### Osborne handed ticket for L'Opera

AND JULIAN MUSCAT

**DAVID NICHOLSON vester**day completed riding arrangements for the Cheltenham Festival when he booked Jamie Osborne for L'Opera. The four-year-old disputes favouritism for the Triumph Hurdle after an impressive debut victory at Kempton seven days ago.

Osborne's engagement rounds off Nicholson's quest to secure the best replacements for Adrian Maguire, who fractured his right arm in a fall at Leicester on Tuesday. Richard Dunwoody parmers Viking Flagship, Mulligan. Certainly Strong and either Relkeel or Sanmartino; Andy Thornton rides Ballyea Boy and King Lucifer; and David

#### RICHARD EVANS

Nap: LE MEILLE Next best: Angelo's Double (2.45 Newbury)

Bridgwater is aboard the Darren Mercer-owned trio of Escartefigue. Destin D'Estruval and Banjo. Richard Johnson, Maguire's understudy, can expect up to 12 stable mounts.

"Richard [Dunwoody] and Jamie [Osborne] are to school Nicholson said. "I am pleased to have sorted the whole thing out quickly. We will miss Adrian terribly but at least we have got a good team of replacements. I am also pleased that Richard Johnson will have his chance. He didn't manage to ride a winner at Cheltenham last year but I thought he rode very well. The Festival is so tough: one winner there makes the whole



Splendid Thyne takes the last ahead of Clinton in the Ardington National Hunt Novices' Hurdle at Newbury yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Nicholson has abandoned plans to work Banjo - the Gold Cup hope who has been off the course for two years after racing at Newbury today. "We can do just as much at home now that the rain has arrived," the trainer said. "Banjo has been pleasing me in his work."

Maguire is not the only jockey who must come to terms with a lengthy absence. Brian Harding, who had been expecting to partner either Addington Boy or The Grey

Monk in the Gold Cup, will not be allowed to ride again until December.

Harding has been out of action since he fractured his skull at Newcastle on December 16, but was hoping for clearance to return this week. When I saw Dr Gerber he told me he would be recommending I have a year off," Harding said. "I thought my fracture was healing well but he said I had had some sort of leg tremor, which they called a seizure, when I was con-

cussed. I spoke to Dr Michael Turner [the Jockey Club's chief medical adviser] and he said that means a year off." Although the Cheltenham

Festival is only ten days away. the focus will be on Aintree at Newbury today when Smith's Band, one of Jenny Pitman's four Grand National entries. returns after 13 months on the

The bold-jumping nine-year-old was a leading contender for last year's National before a setback brought his

Damaged shoulder ligaments. received in a fall at Sandown was the cause of the setback.

Mrs Pitman said yesterday. "I am very happy with him although I would have liked an extra week," she added. "I won't work horses that have had a problem on the allweather, so during the freeze we just kept him ticking over. He has done quite a lot of work since but will improve

for the race." Away from the gaze of the

television cameras, Patrick Haslam is wasting no time in running Nigel's Lad (Doncaster 3.05) after his comfortable success at Newcastle on Monday. The five-year-old, who had previously finished a good second to the highly rated Marello (who won again yesterday), should complete a

quick double. Cheerful Aspect can confirm the favourable impression he created when winning at Lingfield by following up at

Band can do so again from an

attractive handicap mark.

Sister Stephanie and River

Mandate are closely matched

on their recent Towcester

encounter with preference

2.15: This has several permu-

Sheriffmuir, who will appre-

being for the former.

### **DONCASIE!**

12.50 Sea Victor 1.25 Conti D'Estruval

2.00 Musthaveaswig

2,30 Smith Too 3.05 Nigel's Lad 3.40 Sigma Run 4.10 Wynyard Knight

Private Handicapper's top reting: 3.05 NIGEL'S LAD.

GUIDE TO OUR WELLINE BACEGARD

Going no extict horse has worn (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy) Owner in brackets Trainer Age and weight. Rider plos any allowance. The Times

12.50 LIGHT INFANTRY PLATE HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,678: 2m 110yd) (8 runners) 

1996: ALBEMANE 7-10-13 T Kent (11-2) Mrs J Ceck 6 rae

UNICLE DOUS best effort 11 2nd of 10 to Direct Router in handleap hordle at Kééso (2m. 110nd, good) on pennibriss start, with THOURISTON GATE. (2b worse of) 1161 3nd THOURISTON GATE 1191 2nd of 8 to Goldingo in handleap burdle at Warneld (2m, good) GEANNEERN 171 781 of 14 to Circus Lese in handleap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m. 1110yd, good) SEA VICTOR best effort beat

1.25 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE 125-412 WEE FINER 28 (F.G.S) (S. Gratum) G. Moore 8-12-0.

125-12 DESTRIY CALLS 206 (F.G.) (Mrs. R.S. Bahar) N. Gatadee 7-11-9

287-340 IN TRUTH 7 (G.S.) (Mrs. E Mouthard) S. Goldings 9-11-9

287-340 IN TRUTH 7 (G.S.) (Mrs. E Mouthard) S. Goldings 9-11-12

287-24 FRIGGLEY 7 (CD.G.S) (R. Ogden) G. Richards 11-10-10

28-20-124 REM, CLEES 30 (D.F.) U. Storey J. Ouron 8-10-6

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QUITEF MOUNTAIN FORTE 15 (C.B.F.G.S) (J. Adam) J. Adam 7-10-0

Long handigag: Monnale Forty 9-4 BETTING: 7-4 Destiny Calls, 9-4 Wee River, 7-1 Arts: Wings, Contl D'Estruval, 8-1 in Truth, Friedley, 12-1 others 1996: VALIANT WARRICH 8-11-18 R Centity (15-8 fev) M: Hammond 10 can

start. CONTI D'ESTRIANAL about 101 Ath of 11 to Belts. Life in handicap classe at Chepcion (2m 3f 110yd, good). ARTIC WRNES heat Wisippers Delegis 71 in 9-numer handicap classe at Paterniam (3m 110yd, good). Selection: DESTRIY CALLS

2.00 yelka pardubicka grimthorpe handicap chase 🚾 🖼 (£10,192: 3m 2f) (8 runners)

Long handicae: Pias Geneer 9-10 OSTTING: 5-2 Mesthawaswig, 11-4 Whappering Steal, 7-2 Father Sky. 4-1 AB's Alfol, 6-1 Le Medie. 14-1 Chang The Reign, 16-1 others 1996; ADDINGTON BOY 8-10-8 M Daver (11-2) G Richards 12 page

FORM FOCUS

handicap chase at Southwell (3m 110yd. goo AL'S ALEN 22 and of 5 to Shormy Coral in hear cap chase at Carlsos (3m, good). Lit MEBLE 6 3rd of 6 to Caft if A Day in handicap chase Newbury (3m 21 110yd. good) Satector: Le MEBLE PITEU. FATHERI SKY best Young Mether 51 (a 6-numer

2.30 AIR POWER PRODUCTS HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,711; 3m 110yd) (8 runners) 

Long handicap: Ealing Court 9-12. Amilijonmemories 9-2. SETTENG: 7-4 Bankhyard, 5-2 Earling Court, 6-1 Frent Earth, 7-1 Lockyragnain, Smith Too, 8-1 Jocks Cross 12-1 others

1996: ZAMHAREER 5-10-0 P Carbony (5-1) W Storey 5 ran

(3)

**5.6**) 120 - 121 121

FORM FOCUS

FRED EARTH bast effort bear Call My Suest 101 in 5-timer handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 51 good to firm) on perulamate start. BANGNEAD bear Receasts (3m, good to firm) Nov 95 SMITH 100 cto 5-colby 20 in 12-native readicap hurdle at Chepstow (3m, soft).

LOCARAGRANT bear effort 294 2nd of 12 to Livio in tendicap hurdle at Cartiste (2m 41 10yd, good) on perulamate start. JOCKS CROSS best effort.

Selection: BANGNEAD

3.05 PARBUBICE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,548: 2m 4f) (11 numers)

21 MGEL'S LAD 5 (6) (N Domongton) P Haziam 5-71-8. M Foster 69
1 SECRET SERVICE 23 (6) (6 Reed) C Roomton 5-11-8. P Carberry 84
QOOP BOOK OF DREAMS 38 (Nrs 8 Lockmat) J 0'3'rea 9-11-2. O Gallaghet —
MITO THE SWING IF Sainshamy, Mar M Jones 8-11-2. O Gallaghet —
OSA62 LAUGHBRY FORTAME 7 (The Laughing Stock) F Murphy 7-11-2. D Bentley 63
333203 LEAP IN THE DARK 28 (Mrs D Morris) Mass L Sacial 8-11-2. A Thornbon 67
82/90-30 RAFE OCCUPANICE 22 (N Harris) J 0'3'rea 7-11-2. A S Smith —
00034-C AMSTASIA WENDSOR 7 (V) (Mrs G Barb) D Mortas 6-10-11. D J Mortas 6PP BALLY WONDER 9 (Mrs E Heath) Wrs E Heath 5-10-11. M Michanny —
60 MSS NOMBE 10 (Mrs E Heath) Wrs E Heath 5-10-11. M Michanny —
67-7-4 Name\*s 1.34. 4-1 Service 6-11 Launhind Fortaine 8-1 from the Somo Less in the Brite Rare
67-7-4 Name\*s 1.34. 4-1 Service 6-11 Launhind Fortaine 8-1 from the Somo Less in the Brite Rare BETTING: 7-4 Negel's Lad, 4-1 Secret Service, 6-1 Laughing Fordaine, 8-1 Into The Swing, Leap in The Dark, Run Occurance, 12-1 others 1998: BLAZE AWAY 5-11-10 G Bradley (8-15 bt/) I Balding 8 van

3.40 HMS ANDROMEDA NOVICES CHASE (£3,527: 2m 110yd) (7 rumers) 0-15146 SUBLIME FELLOW 35 (D.F.G) (R McGraft) M Henderson 7-11-12 30-4351 JUST BRIDGE 18 (F) (A Neath) Mrs E Heath 8-11-7 1531FF SIGMA RUN 22 (F.G) (n Bell 5 Son Let) J 0'Shep 6-11-7 422-F24 BLAIR CASTLE 14 (F) (Hepthyras) 6 Badring 6-11-2 1542-F24 BLAIR CASTLE 14 (F) (Hepthyras) 6 Badring 6-11-2 1542-F1-2 15446 E 2 (Cartner Racing) D Motar 6-11-2 1550-05 GREAT GABLE 21 (Cartner Racing) D Mota BETTING: 7-4 Blan Castle, 2-1 Sublime Fellow, 6-1 Royal Comson 7-1 Just Proce 18-1 Ginne, 12-1 Signa Run, 33-1 Great Gable

1996 CALLISOE BAY 7-11-8 G Bradley (1-4 tax) O Sherwood 5 ran

4.10 TOWN MOOR STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE THE 110yd) (14 Furthers)

CARLINGFORD TYKE (Ioritipo Racing) 7 Cary 5-11-3

JUDICOUSE CHARILE LI Adam) J. Adam 5-11-3

D. LORD OF THE FIRMOS 15 (Da. Wood Racing) F. Marphy 5-11-3

M. T. J. Barry (7)

M. H.L. BAY SAM 385 (O. Robbers) Mr. M. Jones 6-11-3

M. M. G. Bonner (3)

D. PODLAR'S CROSS 37 (A. Memits 6. McCard 5-11-3

D. FORC (3)

D. SPREATHER PROPERTY (1. J. Mones) Mr. M. J. Bonner (3)

D. FORC (3)

D. SPREATHER PROPERTY (1. J. Mones) Mr. M. S. G. Johnson (5-11-3)

M. WALLAND ORGAN T. S. G. B. C. Mones (5-11-3)

M. M. C. Bonner (3)

D. WALLAND DIRECT 128 (BP) (St. John Hall) Mrs. M. Revetey 5-11-3

R. McCardy (7)

WOMPARD DIRECT 128 (BP) (St. John Hall) Mrs. M. Revetey 5-11-3

SOCIETY TIMES 23 (D.F) (A. McPhersam D. Notin 4-11-2

AEOLUS (Stat.) I. Hebred) (1. Linyd-James 4-10-9

D. DIS FOR GOLD 39 (C. Platis) Mrs. S. Plan 4-10-9

D. LANDLER 11 (Bardon Developments Lift) J. Notin 4-10-9

E. Calleghan (3)

A Wiveyerd Smich 19-4 Scorety Times, 6-1 Generous Streak, 14-1 Measoner Free, Publish (7) Ses. (1) 7-4 Wynyerd Ymgri: 9-4 Scriety Times, ô-1 Generous Streak, 14-1 Weapons Free Pediat's Crass Dig

1996: ALZULU 5-11-5 E Calamphan (+1-10 lav) J Frizgerald 14 res

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINFRS 31.3 P Carterry 30 D G Let 26 7 P Noven 21 1 L Wyer 20 C D Byme 18 2 R Garatty

### The Bounder can outfox Festival-bound Fantus

THE clash between Fantus and The Bounder at the Dake Of Beaufort point-to-point meeting today is one to savour (Carl Evans writes). Fantus, the likely favourite for Cheltenham's Foxhunters' Chase, can be forgiven a defeat at Larkhill two weeks ago, when he was short of fitness after a two-year absence through injury and training problems. His previous outing had been an impressive victory at the Festival in 1995. Fantus is sure to improve again for today's run and that gives The Bounder an excellent chance of coming out on top. Still only seven, he has been impressive in two victories this season.

TODAY'S MEETINGS. Beautort at Defination, 9m N ext 18 MA that race 12:30): Childe, Lec & Cowdray at Parham, 4m SE of Publicacyon 172.49; East Devon at Cycl. St Mary, 7m Ext Exten (12:00): East Essee at Marks Tey, 5m W of Colchester (12:30). Fint & Devologh at Exten (12:00): East Essee at Marks Tey, 5m W of Colchester (12:30). Fint & Devologh at Exten (12:00): Tyrindale at Corbindoy. 5m N of Inoten (12:00): TomOCRROW: Burton at Market Raten, reade of NH course (12:00): Sh Dustram at Modeon, 6m E of Bishop Auckland. (12:30): Sh Hersfords at Garnons, 7m W or Hersford (12:30): Sh Midland Chilb at Mollington, 4m N of Bar bury (12:00).

### Destiny Calls can seize timely opportunity old developed into a useful his turn was near when

### DONCASTER

#### **CHANNEL 4**

12.50: More Dash Thancash looks worth following until beaten after showing progressive form to win at Huntingdon and Windsor. Raised 71b for his latest comfortable win, Merrita Jones's runner still looks at the right end of the handicap and should be suit- ous jumping errors last time. ed by this track and ground. Desert Fighter is well treated on his best form but does not look totally genuine. Sea Vic-tor disappointed at Newcastle last time but will be suited by this flat track.

1.25: Destiny Calls. who won first time out last term, can stage a repeat here. The Nick Gaselee-trained seven-year-

RACELINE

NEWBURY 102 WARWICK 103 LINGFIELD 104 W'HAMPTON 105 IRISH 120

FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

IRISH LOTTERY RESULT 0930 162 441

novice and signed off last year by beating Southampton and Challenger Du Luc on Whitbread day at Sandown. This represents a drop in class and, with further improvement likely, he can oblige. Artic Wings won a weak race at Fakenham 15 days ago. while Real Glee made numer-Frickley and Wee River look

bigger dangers. 2.00: This ground may be too quick for Whispering Steel, while Ali's Alibi is well handicapped but one-paced. Musthaveaswig, a course and distance winner, scored in a slowly run race at Warwick 25 days ago but his jumping can be suspect. Le Meille showed

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Southwell (AW, first race, 2.10). Doncaster (2.00), Windsor (2.20). TUESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 2.10), Leicaster (2.20), Kelso (switched from Sedgefield, 2.00)

WEDNESDAY: Wolverhampton (AW 2.20), Bangor (2.10), Cattenck (1.55)

THURSDAY: Carlisle (2.00), Towceste (2.20), Wincanton (2.10).

FRIDAY: Ayr (150), Exeter (2.15), Market Rasen (1.40), Sendown Park

SATURD. .f: Wolverhampton (AW. 2 40), Ayr (1 50), Chepslow (BBC, 1 15), Sandown Park (C4, 1 55)

Flat meetings in bold

or building society debit cards.

running well behind Call It A Day at Newbury three weeks ago when 3lb out of the handicap. Left alone by the handicapper, he looks particularly well treated judged on his form last season.

2.30: The return to three miles will benefit Lochnagrain in this tight handicap. Outclassed at Sandown last time. Mary Reveley's tough campaigner was previously a good second to the welltreated Livio at Carlisle over 2½ miles and a reproduction of that form would suffice here. Ealing Court is weighted to reverse Chepstow form with Bankhead.

RICHARD EVANS

1.15 Mely Moss



ON TELEVISION

#### NEWBURY **BBC1**

1.15: The Frog Prince is well weighted on his belated seasonal debut. He is effective at this trip but a 12-month absence is not encouraging. The bulk of Newlands-General's victories have come at

2.45 Angelo's Double

nents in winning his last two races. He is worth opposing with Mely Moss, a French import who won with authority over an extended 212 miles on his British debut. Subsequently beaten over three tations, particularly a third miles at Towcester, he now successive victory for reverts to the shorter trip. I.45: Smith's Band, a live Grand National candidate,

strong individual who is

prone to errors. Too Plush has

beaten disappointing oppo-

appeals in this tightly knit handicap. He thrived throughout last season, which ended prematurely after a narrow defeat by Scotton Banks at Haydock. A good iumper who has triumphed on his reappearance in the

(£2,928: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

(£3,467: 2m 5f) (14 runners)

ciate any rain. Goldingo reserves his best for Warwick, but this consistent gelding looks sure to take a hand. Nipper Reed may need it softer, but Rangitikei should

find conditions to his liking. He can follow up a recent win over course and distance. JULIAN MUSCAT

10-1952 PUSAT LIBUTEMANT 25 (F.S) (Mrs. L Pogg) T Case; 8-11-9. D Bridguester 70 (557):3-2 ANGELOTS DOUBLE 17 (6.5) L/ Hemoport R Buckler 9-11-4. B Power 73 224-2L- CAMPEIONE BAY 352; L/ Kimesan G Baking 8-11-4. A P MacCoy 89 P-SP973 GORDON 8 (B.S) (Ba's C Pin P Webber 6-11-4. E Husbard (3) 61 (122-25) MADISON COUNTY 40 (M.S.) (R Popular) P Hubbs 7-11-4. C Limestlyn 72 (PP40) SPIN ECHO 778 (R Waley-Cohen) R Waley-Cohen 8-11-4. W Marston

BETTING: 5-4 Angelo's Double, 5-2 Flight Lleutenant, 4-1 Campache Bay, 8-1 Madison County, 12-1 Gordon, 33-1 Spn Edito

1998: GOLDEN SPRINER 9-11-12 M A Fitzgerald (8-13 lav) N Henderson 6 ran

3.15 SCUIDAMORE CLOTHING NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HUNDLE

2.45 JACK O'NEWBURY NOVICES CHASE

3.15 Peace Lord 3.50 SUPREME GENOTIN (nap) 1.45 Sister Stephanie 2.15 Goldingo 4.20 Sweep Clean Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.15 SHERTFFMUIR (nap).

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

3.15 Peace Lord. TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

1.15 NORTH SYDMONTON HANDICAP CHASE (£4.497: 2m 4f) (5 runners)

2.15 EASTLEIGH HANDICAP HURDLE

Long handicap: Noble Colours 9-10 Mr Poppleton 9-5 BETTRIC; 3-1 Supreme Genotic, 4-1 Palladium Boy 9-2 Rosing Dough 7-1 | Recall, 8-7 The Brewnaster, Touhiba Talk, 12-1 others 1998: FROGMARCH 6-11-8 J Radion (8-1) R Phillips 15 cm 4.20 THATCHAIN STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,324; 2m 110yd) (17 numers) BETTING: 3-1 AN Done, 7-2 Sweep Clean, 9-2 Caras Rose, 7-1 Bold Leap, 8-1 Fin Box, Calife Season, 10-Crystal Javad, 12-1 others 1998: SPLENDID THYRIE 4-10-8 J F Titley (16-1) R Hoad (1 gr



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VELKA PARDUBICKA GRIMTHORPE

3 miles 2 furlongs, Doncaster 2.00pm, Live on CH4 TV.

10/3 Whispering Steel

10/3 Le Meille

HANDICAP CHASE



(3-Y-D: £4,809: 1m 4f) (3)

This is the Comme 7-2 Walls The Best 4-1 Rabil, 5-1 Apollo Red, 7-1 Specify Class at 3-1 and 5-1 (1-1 Sharp hep)

SALO AT LIBERTY 313 (CD.F.G) R Harron 5-9-12. R Haghes 5
1-17 ROYAL ACTION 20 (C.G.) Sales 4-9-10. M Wighen 4
1-74 NGST FORK 11 (F.G.) 5 L More 5-9-7. M Wighen 4
1-55 PRIVE DANIES 10 (CD.F.G.) Library 5-8-5 P. D Harrson 3
1- MERSEY 5-8-1 SC (CD.G.) CL More 1-8-1. G Busied 2
1-55 SUMMERWALE WOOD 119 (F) P More 3-8-1. D R Michael 6

10-1 chemical (Color of Color of Color

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRUMERS: I Barron, 10 senants from 25 namers, 35 Pc, C Thomson, 10 to 14 T2 St, Lock Hustengdon, 42 from 189, 22 Pc, G Woogs 4 can 19 T1 Pc. L Mandagan Hall, 11 from 50, 19 St, M Jehnston, 45 from 50, 17 St.

COURTS D Holland, 32 Minners from 136 ndes, 23.5% S Windowsto, Street 134 of 1% G Millions, 3 tons 17, 17.6% M Ryan, 18 from 13, 17.0% O Mickeyen, 18 from 110, 16.4%, 8 Duffield, 33 from 13, 17.5% O Mickeyen, 18 from 110, 16.4%, 8 Duffield, 33 from 13, 17.5%

" 4 Royal Action, 2-1 Rogal Wied, Memory Sect. 6-1 Prince Dating, 7-1 titlers

5.00 LEO HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,752 1m 2f) (9)

4.30 RAPPORTEUR CONDITIONS STAKES

,£3 336 1m 2f) (6)

English A 1, 20<sup>11, 27</sup>

Newbury 2.45 Gordon 3.15 Alba Duras Day's 3.51 About Marwick 4.45 Wolf Last, Wolveshampton; 7.55 About Marwick 4.45 Wolf Last, Wolveshampton; 7.55 About Musicing 8.00 About 8.5

radio e 🔁 🍦

COMPRESENSIVE COUDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES Third division
(32) Carliste v Lincoin
(33) Darfington v Brighton
(34) Fulham v Chester
(35) Hardispool v Scunttrorpe
(35) Hardispool v Scunttrorpe
(36) Hardispool v Scunttrorpe
(37) Hull v Northampton
(38) Leyton Orlent v Barnet
(39) Mansfield v Carrbridge Utd
(—) Rochdale v Torquay

P W D L F A Pts
Wigan
33 20 8 7 63 39 65
Carliste
33 19 9 5 50 30 66
Fulham
34 19 7 8 58 34 64 Kick-off 3.0 unless stated Pools coupon numbers in brackets FA Carting Premiership (1) Blackburn v Sunderland
(2) Derby v Chelsea
(3) Everton v Arsenel
(4) Leeds v West Harr
(5) Marchester Utd v Couentry
(6) Newtestle v Southampton
(7) Sheffield Wed v Middlesbrough
(8) Tottenbern v Middlesbrough Swanses..... 35 16 6 13 46 40 54 Camb Utd .... 34 16 6 12 44 45 54 Chester..... 34 14 11 9 40 32 53 \*Colchester.... 34 12 16 6 49 38 52 \*Colchester 34 12 16 6 49 38 52

Northampton 33 14 8 11 53 35 50

Cardiff ... 33 15 5 13 42 40 50

\*Scarborn 34 12 13 9 48 43 49

Hul ... 34 11 14 9 33 35 47

Lincoln ... 35 12 10 13 49 56 46

Mansiled ... 34 11 13 10 37 34 46

Scurithorpe ... 33 13 5 15 47 50 44

Torquey ... 33 12 7 14 34 37 43

Barrer ... 33 9 14 10 33 33 41

Layton Orient 35 10 11 14 32 38 41

Rochtola ... 34 815 11 39 43 39

Hartlepool ... 34 10 7 17 37 51 37

Hereford ... 35 9 9 17 39 52 36

Darlington ... 34 9 7 18 49 64 34

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\*Phicheol 24 8 7 18 39 55 30 Notim Forest 25 5 9 12 23 40 24 Southampton 25 5 6 14 34 44 21 † Middlesbro 25 5 7 13 30 45 19 † Middlesbrough deducted three points † Brighton .... 34 8 7 19 38 55 29 † Brighton deducted two points " not including last night's matches Nationwide League First division First division

(10) Bradford v Manchester City

(11) Grimsby v Birmingham

(12) Norwich v Huddersfield

(13) Oxford Utd v Crystal Palace

(14) Port Vale v Reading

(15) Portsmouth v Sheffield Utd

(16) Queens Park Rangers v Oldham

(17) Southend v Bernskey

(18) Swindon v Chartton

(19) Wolverhampton v Ipswich

P W D L F A Pis

Solion

34 19 11 4 71 45 68

Wolves

Wolves

33 17 7 9 47 32 56 Barnsley ...... 32 15 10 7 54 40 55 Sheffield Uld 33 15 B 9 57 39 54 Norwich .... 34 14 9 11 51 53 51 C Palace 32 13 10 9 59 34 49 Southend 34 7 12 15 33 60 33 Gamsby ... 32 7 10 15 41 58 31 Oldham 31 6 10 15 32 43 28 "not including last night's match Second division (20) Bournemouth v Shrewsbury (21) Bristol Rovers v Walself (21) Bristol Rovers v Walsali
(22) Crewe v Giltingham
(23) Milwali v Wycombe
(24) Notis Courny v Brentlord
(25) Peterborough v Chesterfield
(26) Pyrnouth v Blackpool
(27) Preston v Bury
(28) Stockport v Rotherham
(29) Warbrod v Bristol City
(30) Wresham v Burnley
(31) York v Luton

P W D L F A Pis
Sertford 31 16 11 4 49 25 59
Luton 30 16 7 7 54 33 55 Sur, 30 14 10 6 43 39 55 Sestio Cr. 20 14 9 9 50 34 51 William 33 14 9 10 40 41 31 Burnley 34 14 3 12 50 39 50 Regar aşılı direker eşe il Buke ç FOCTBALL Courage Clubs Championship Fourth division south Chefenham v Askeans (2.30) Hersey v Newbury (3.0) Astomicka Livero (1946) Nationwide League First diesion Anglo-Welsh competition Group C Etter . West Brimwich (21) Begins : Aperavon (3.0) Third detailer Welsh League First division "สิทธิเธอสา 2 พระการ์วิวัง PONTIN'S GENTRAL LEAGUE Cup Group three Storocom Canners of American FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier division:
Establica Tigors of Southgaie (all Holyhead
Charles Teame 10 Camerbury v East
an inser la Polo Ramin 10 Guidflord v
Colo Digithoush sat Jung's Manor School
100 Houghbar v Havant (all Dukes
Weadow Christich 20 Surbition v
Cambrillian Andrew Heading (all Dukes
Weadow Christich 20 Surbition v
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100 Fast division Beaston v Chy of
Portsmooth (ar Hopfledds Notingham
100 Busenests v Boothands ta Hichmidolys School 230) Boothands ta Hichmidolys School 230, Boothands to Holys
The Edward's Garts School Birmingham
135 Hutle v Stoutport (all Hutl University)
136 Indian Avenue 230, Isoa V Doneaster
at Evete School
137 Doneaster
138 Fathams v Firebrands (at Banbury
Flad 20) Orlord University v Gloucester
137 Not Stoutand School 20, Sheffield v
Salleson, Magore (all Obergos) Park
139 Strabams v Firebrands (at Clairence Park
130 RUGBY LEAGUE • :=-::= . : : : - 33 8\*2\*60\* First draision First chision
Feathers the Linux FR (2.0)
muddenstert (Anners en 2.0)
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Workington Lee (Me) Second division in respection € 40% Cegn - Barrak Poprijak - Divinaster Second roung

ICS LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v
Bethop's Stordord; Bromiley v Erifield;
Cherasay v Hitchin, Dufwich v Harrow;
Kingstorden v Hendon; Purfleet v Sternes; St
Albars v Casahaston; Sutten United v
Bordhern Wood; Yeeding v Yeovil; First
division: Adjerator Town v Croydon; Barron
Riovers v Besingstoke; Berframsted v
Abingdon Town; Ettericay v Molesey; Bogmor
Regis v Carney Island; Hampston v Marlow;
Malpanhead United v Leyton Perment;
Thame v Chesham; Tooting and Mischem v
Urbridge; Whyseleafe v Wolnigham; Worthing v
Welton and Hershem Second
division: Bering v Hungerbord; Bediard T v
Withern; Chellon's SI Peter v Leighton Town;
Chellon's SI Peter v Leighton Town;
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Chellon's Chellon's SI Peter v Leighton Town;
Chellon's Chellon's SI Peter v Weightern;
Hondram v Windon and Hershem v Winerhoe;
Housham v Windon and Erich Weighter Row
and Romitord. H Herspelsed v Winerhoe;
Housham v Windon and Evell v Clapton,
Horsham v Windon and Finchley v Weersley,
Third division: Avelay v Weetslestone; East
Thurnook v Titing: Epsam and Evell v Clapton,
Horsham v Beaconsiled SyCOB: Si
Mergerastoury v Islanded Could First St.E.
GUE: Premier division: Ash Unit v Reading
Town: Bedford v Cove; Contrition Causis v
Fellman; Codelming and Guidlond v Raynes
Frais Valid: Harriey Wintersy v Chinacia;
Nethor v Canadas v Ferminam Town; Westhed v
Coblem; Vising Sports v Ashidrat Town;
Westhed: Socked V Ekrone; Beamstagle v Vauxhall Conference Merstham.

SCREWPtx DIRECT LEAGUE, Premier division: Backwell v Eknore; Bernstaple v Caine; Bidstord v Odd Down: Bridgweter v Paulton R; Brisington v Biddport; Bristol Manor Farm v Chard; Chipperham v Tauriton; Therton v Mangotsfield; Tormigton v Westlew. Bell's Scottish League Premier division Teuritor's Therton v Mangostsield; Tomington v Westbury.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUEPremier division: Dies v Wisbach; Feltrislowe P and T v Worsham; Gorleton v Warbory; Lowestolt v Weston; March v Hadlagh U: Sudbury W v Bury Town: Topres v Great Yarmouth. Cup: Semi-finalis; Hatelead v Harwich and Parieston; Havethie v Hatel v Hatelead v Harwich and Parieston; Havethie v Hatelead v Harwich and Parieston; Havethie v Hatelead v Harwich and Parieston; Havethie v Hatelead v Harwich and Parieston; Hatelead v Harwich Worsey.

Lymington v Cowes Sponts; Andrew v Aerostructures; Bernerion Hatel v Pomsey.

East Cowes v Whitchurch; Eastlegh v Wintborne Town; Pelastled v Gosport; Ryde Sports v Downson; Thetcham Town; V Totton.

UNILET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel v Wast; Burgeas Hill v Pogham; Langney Sports v Satidean, Oelswood v Storeham; Pescariaven and Telecombe v Whitehewit; Portfield v Horsham (MCA; Fingmer v Hassocks; Seley) v (40) Aberdeen v Rangers
(41) Celinc v Heerts
(42) Dundee Utd v Dunfermfine
(43) Hibernien v Motherwell
(44) Raith v Kilmarnock First division Second division Caracoca v Storensm; Peacaraisem and Telacombe v Whiteheavic Portifield v Horsham YMCA; Rimgmer v Hassocks; Selesy v Halisham; Southwick v Easthourne Town Three Bridges v Mile Celu. Willoworth; Folkeston: Beckenham v Deel, Coninthian v Ramsgelle: Chockenhill v Wilcolwort; Folkestone Invicts v Cray; Rumess v Fewersham; Greenwich v Hythe, Herne Bay v Tunbridge Wells: Lordswood v Whitstable Town: Sheppey v Sizole Green: Thamesmead v Canterbury HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premiter division: Abingdon United v Almondishury, Brassley v Shortwood; Endelagh v Burnham; Highworth v Wantlage; Kribtury v Barbury, North Leaghv Swendon Supermarke.
UHLSPOT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premiter division: Bosion v Ford Sports; Consorted w Welflenbranch Third division (---) Arbroath v East Stirling . (---) Inverness CT v Alioa ..... (---) Montrose y Ross County (---) Ousen's Park y Fortar 
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashtond y Worcesser Chy. Baldook y 
Sittingbourne; Burton Albion y King's Lym, 
Carrbnotge Chy y Halesowen; Cheimslord y 
Sudbury Tn. Gravesend and Northleet y 
Gresley, Hastings y Affections; Marthy y 
Cheltenham, Newport AFC y Crewley; 
Numeator y Salabury Midland division: 
Bedworth y Rothwelt; Evenham y Stationd, 
Hinckley Town y Tamburoth; Pagel Ay Bistord, 
Handley Town y Tamburoth; Pagel Ay Bistord, 
Handle T y Redditch; Solihull Boro y 
Grartham, Stouthnotes y Dudley Town VS 
Rugby y Shepthed D Southwam offsision of 
Bashley y Enth and Belvedere; Dartford y 
Waterbookle Fisher London y Clawdon; 
Fleet T y Fareham, Winay y Buckingham 
Town Yate y Forest Green Torbnotge Angels y 
Weymouth, Towthnotge y Mangane. 
LINIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: 
Accomption Stanley y Winstord; Alfreton y 
Chorley, Bosten y Lancaster; Budton y 
Barros, Frosthey y Marter; Garsborough y 
Leek, Spernymoor y Emley; Witton y Byth 
Sparans, First division; Congleton y Leigh, 
Curron Astron y Radditle, Eactwood Town y 
Farster, Cocc, Hampale Town y Alfreton, 
Leacht Langue Che WALES; Aberyswyth 
Ficch, Stockshorige Psy of Great Harwood. 
Gal BERT LEAGUE Of WALES; Aberyswyth 
Ficch, Stockshorige Psy (Compass Bay Bany; 
Cartherar y Conwy, Pint Town y Carmarthen 
Town 230 Inter Cable-Tel y Holywell (230); 

Lansantifrad y Briton Ferry; Portimadog y 
Lesses Senior LEAGUE: Premier division: ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Promier division: Esaucan U. Ford Unred, Concord Rangers, Great Wakering Eton Manor v Saftron Manor Hubbindge Sports v Southend Manor Saparoseworth v Esset Ham, MANERVA SOUTH MIDIANDS LEAGUE: Premier thriston Brache Sports v Allesey; manor ten is groungfram Artietic Langford absorts of Letonworth Hoodescon, London 2004, Poters Bar Millon Keynes v Total Programs Walland Gordon & Programs v Total Programs (Programs V Programs v Total Programs (Programs V Programs v Total Programs (Programs V Programs V TOMORROW

Premier division: Boston v Ford Sports;
Cogenhoe v Wellingborough; Desborough v
Potton; Wirtless Blackstone v Epresbury;
Newport Pagnell v Bourne; SI Neots v
Kempstan, Statiold v Long Buckby; Wootton v Holbeach; OTZ DESEMMANT PROPERTY CEASURE Pre-mier division: Biosonfield v Coventry and North Warwicks; Hampton-in-Arcien v Biosolich, Harborne v Loughborough Stu-cients; Northgham v Khatsa, Otton and West Warwickshire v North North Kempston, Stotloid v Long Buckby, Wootlon v Hobbagh.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Bisherhall v Bisoneth Town: Boldmere St M v Willerhall, Chassisom v Bridgnorth; Hinckley Athetic v Odbury U; Pelsay V v Stratlord T, Parshor T v Knypersky V; Rocasser v Stapentrill, Sarzhuel v Barwell, Shifnal T v Rushell C V Mild Police v Halesowen H ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Bisson Community College v Boletal S; Colesthill v Shiring; Coverby Sphra, v Handrahan Timbers; David Lloyd v Knowe, Horigase v Mer KA, Kerilworth v Knowe, Horigase v Mer KA, Kerilworth v Knoge Heath, Rohmond Switis v Southam; Sucrity BKL, v Worcassary, Wellasbourne v Massey Ferguson; West Midland Pire Servere v Alvechunch.

BANICS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier div-NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Chester v Formby, Harrogate v Swalkelt; Norton v Springfields; Remgartva v Neston, Southport v Ban Frtydding, Temperlay v Sneffield Bankers Smingfields, Remigathe v Neston, Southport v Ben Phydding, Temperley v Shefheld Bankers
ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier dwision A: Chelmistord v Cambridge University, Colchester v Peterborough Town, Dereham v Sudbury, Inswich v Beshop's Stortloid, Redbridge and Bord v Cambridge ChyPremier dwision B: Bestod'd Town v Caction, Ipswich and East Suffall, v Norwich City, Libbo Town v Romitord, Old Southendan v Bury St Edmunds, Westorid V Humbrigdon SUN LIPE WEST LEAGUE: Premier division; Clevedon v Bristol University, Ribonistic, V Beston Buccaneer: Swansea v Phymouth, Weston-Ispori Mare v Trainton Vale, Whitchusch v Lieb and Lar.
WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division; Clevedon v Bristol University, Ribonistic, Weston-Ispori Marchusch v Landauer v Trainton Vale, Whitchusch v Lebaster (12 0), Ipswich v Cithon (12 0), Stough v Doncaster (2 0) Trojens v Sutton (13 0), First division: Bleaturis v Bradford (12 30), Bracines v Othor (2 0); Carrierbury v Wimbledon (12 0), Chelmistord v Bedans (11 15) Second division: Ealing v Loughtonams (11 15). Second division: V Peter Wimb, (12 0), St Albars v Laughborough (2 30) Sherwood v Violung (12 0).

SHARWOODS JRISH WOMEN'S CUP-Massey Ferguson: West Midland Pire Service v Alvecturen.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Basting Half Tv Stouppon S. Hill Top R v Darteston. Ludlow Tv Gornal Res; Sallford T v Malvern T. Wiskaal Wood v Cradley Town: Wednesfelds v Lye Town: Wednesfelds v Lye Town: Wednesfelds v Lye Etrogstrall Int. Widwertrampton C v Tivrdole, Wolverhampton United v Biotewich S NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collegies v Meine Road: Blackpool Rowers v Midseley; Burcough v Rossendale, Chadderton v Bootle; Eastwood H v Nartwich Town: Gloscop North End v St Helens, Holler Did Boys v Nidsgrove Permit v Newcastle Town; Prescot Cobles v Tradford. Sallod v Garwen; Vanhall GM v Citherbe Fall HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Firm Harps v Horne Farm 77 301, Sigo v Shebourne 17 301 SHARWOODS IRISH WOMEN'S CUP-Pinal Muckross v Hermes (at UC Dublin, WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East Achlord v Harleston Magness Boxleyheath v Severtoaks, Cambridge City v Bury, Welviyn Garden City v Ipcasch Middend, Crimson Ramblers v Aldridge, Kertering v Hampton, Leicester v Bedord, North Staffs v West Bornsoch North Cardie v Weston, Chester v Shetheta, Lizerpool v Blackburn, York v Poynton South: City of Portsmouth v Horsham Reading v Hampstead: Tulke Hill v Dukwch Winchester v Worthing, Winchrore Hill v Southampton West. Bournemouth v Euster Colwall v Cheltenham; St Austell v Redland, Wentborne v Yale AEWHA CUP: Fourth round: Aldridge v Old Loughtonians (1.15); Cheam v Herbarne (2.0). Culton v Kettering (1.0); Crinson Ramblers v Famborough (1.2.0); Concaster v Ealing (12.90); Harleston Magpies v Leicester (2.0); Ipswich v Redictich (12.0); Leyland Motors v Hightown (St Mary's School, 1.30); Loughborough Students v Surton Coldifield (2.30), Office v Bueharts (2.30), Suogh v Liverpool (2.0), Sunderland Bedans v Woking (12.30), Sunderland Bedans v Woking (12.30), Trojens v Bishop's Storfford (1.30); Wintohester v Cheimstord (2.0), Winchmore Hill v Cartlerbury (12.0) OTHER SPORT ATHLETICS: British world cross-country championships thats (at Stopsley Park, championships trials (at Slopsley Park, Luten)
BASNG-TBALL: 7-Up Trophy: Finat: Chester v London Towers (at NEC, Birmingham, 7-0) Budweiser Lasgue: Birmingham, v Derby (4 15); Newcastle v Crystal Palace (5:30) National Lasgue: Men: First division: Med Sussex v Liverpool (3 0); Phymouth v Nottingham (4.0); Stockon v Coventry (4 0); Westminster v Ware (7 0) Second division: Derby v Northampton (5 0); South Bark v Firsthrue (4.0); Women: Second division: Doncaster v Oxford (1 15)
BOWLS: Women's English national indoor

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier division: Belper Town v Mestby MAY, Densby v Hestheld Main: Ginsenbugnian Western v Hallern Hudmal Town v Liversedge: North Ferriby v Americane Western v Staget Albom v Andell, Ponteirus Western v Staget Town; Selby v Ashibale; Sheffled v Osset Town, Theoday v Pickering. Kick-oft 3.0 unless stated Five nations' championship England v France (at Twickenham) Scotland v Ireland (at Murraylield) Y O'SET TOWN, Thedday y Pickering,
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN
LEAGUE First division: Bodington Tentions y
Durham: Bullinghort v Easington, Crook v
Tow Law, Guidscorough v Muston; Mometh v
West Aucktand, RTM Newcastle v Sauthern
Red Star, Shidon v Whitty, Sauth Shielde v
Durston Federation; Stockion v Chaster-teStreet; Whichtem v Conzett. Courage Clubs Championship Third division Exeter v (ydney .... Harrogate v Londön Welsh .... Lseds v Walsall Liverpool SI Helens v Havant .... Hed Star, Shildon v Whitby, Soutin Shielde v Durison Federation; Stockion v Chester-le-Strear, Whichtern v Consett.

SMISHOFF RISSH LEAGUE Premier division: And v Glendrage, Cusaders v Partadown: Genseon v Citionwile, Lurifield v Coleraine, First division: Bellymene v Partadown: Genseon v Citionwile, Lurifield v Coleraine, First division: Bellymene v Bellyctare, Carrick v Bangor: Larne v Ornaght. Newly v Dusiliers

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Chatfon v Assensi (11 0); Chessee v Levion Orient (11.0); Fulham v Norment (11.0); Chessee v Levion Orient (11.0); Fulham v Norment (11.0); Chessee v Levion Orient (11.0); Chessee v Cambridge Utd (10 48); Tottenhare v Southerd Utd (11.0). Bournermouth v Reading (11 0); Second division: Barnet v Colerator V Bustol City (11.0); Binghion v Bristol Flowers (11 0); Chystal Palace v Oxford Utd (11.0). Bournermouth v Totsantram (11.0), Whitbledon v Luton (11.0); Binghion v Bristol Flowers (11 0); Chystal Palace v Oxford Utd (11 0); Swindom v Totsantram (11.0), Whitbledon v Luton (11.0); Binghion v Bristol Flowers (11 0); Chystal Palace v Oxford Utd (11 0); Swindom v Totsantram (11.0), Whitbledon v Luton (11.0); Binghion v Southempton (11.0) (11.0); Binghion v Southempton (11.0) (11.0); Binghion v Corthustans; Elonitary v Colimetelans; Landing v Reptonians v Colimetelans; Landing v Reptonians v Oxforder (11.0); Binghion v Reptonians v Oxforder (11.0); Binghion v Reptonians v Oxforder (11.0); Binghion v Nativest Barnet Oxforder (11.0); Binghion v Nativest Barnet Oxforder (11.0); Binghion v Reptonians v Nativest Barnet Oxforder (11.0); Binghion v Leeds (21 Dungannon, 11.0); English Fulf Films Vrootiv; Quarter-firets: Liverpook v Coverity (al Fermy Lene, 10.30); Selton v Leeds (21 Netheron, 11.0) Ottey v Fylde Reading v Citton (2:30) Rosslyn Park v Moriey Wharledale v Redruth Fourth division north Lichiled v Worcester
Preston Grasshoppers v Manchester
Sandel v Stoke-on-Trent
Winnington Park v Nuneaton Fourth division south Waston-super-Walle v Hymouri SOUTH WEST: First division: Barnstaple v Malderthead: Bridgwater v Torquey, Camborne v Salesbury, Launceaton v Matson; St. Nes v Glouceater Old Boys; Stroud v Bridham NORTH: First division: Bridfington v West. Park Bramhope: Broughton Park v Wigton; Maccledfeld v Sedgley Park New Boghton v Hull Iontans; Stockton v Tynedate: Widnes v Bradford and Bingley. A Blackfreath v Portypool (1.0): Richmond v Cross Keys Group B: South Wales Police Coverity (2.30) Group C: Notingham v Aberillary Group D: Llandovery v London Scottesh (2.30); Rotherham v Ystradgynlas; Rugpy v Bonymaen (2.0) Swalec Cup Seventh round Treorchy v Bridgend (2 30) .......... Weish League First division HOCKEY HOCKEY

NASTRO AZZIRRO LEAGUE: Premier
League: Anchorans v Winchester, Chichester v Wimbladon: Farefram v Richmond,
Gore Courl v Beckenham, Maddenhead v
High Wicombe; Old Kingstontans v
Hampstead/Westminister; Old Whitigritiens v
Ashtod: Spenser v Bouriemouth, Woking v
Ramgaritia; Wokingham v Tunbridge Weits
Hampshine/Surrey; Barres v Epsom,
Camberley v Puriey; Osted v Basingstole,
Old Cranleighams v Riendford; Goen v
Andover; Dutwich v Old Mid-Winghitans;
Petersfield v London Linkersity; Cheam v
Southersphon; Old Wielcountians; v Oschott,
Kent/Sussec: Ashtord v Old Bordeniens;
Belvedere v Middletor; Beleghheath v Mid
Sussex, Bedey Invida v Horsham; Second division Blackwood v Maesteg (2.30) THIRD DIVISION: Yenfig Hill v Bultin Wells, Llanharan v Penarih; Tenby Litd v Tradegar: Merthyr v Rumney, Narberth v Tondu; Pyle v Mountain Ash TOUR MATCH: Edinburgh Academicals v Mandoza (Arg) (110) CLUB MATCH: Bristol v Dunvant (3.0), Belvedere v Middletmr, Bedeyheath v Mid Susser, Bedey Invida v Horstem Blackheath v Old Hobombelans, Begror v Tules Hill; Brighton v Old Williamsonians, Herne Bay v Marden Russets, Lloyds Bank v Eastbourne, Worthing v Sevennalis MiddlyBerles/Bucks and Oxorr: Americhem v Lions, Brackned v Mid Hill; City of Datord v Hayes; Eastcole v West Hampstead; Harrow v Gerrards Cross; Headington v Million keynes: Newbury v Outff: Richings Park v Marlow, Stames v PHC Chrewick; Surbury v Fernitem Common DTZ DEBENNAM THORPE LEAGUE: Pre-mier division: Biossomfield v Covertiny and RUGBY LEAGUE Kirck-off 2.30

Krcl-off 2:30
NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premiler division: Egremont v Mayfield: Haworth
v Beverley; Lock Lone v West Hult:
Saddleworth v Wigen SI Particks, Woosleri v
Leigh Miners Final division: Askam v East
Leeds: Barrow Island v Warney Central, Leigh
East v Milhor; Quition v Backbrook, Thoshitt
v Eastmoor Second division: Dewisbury
Moor v fork, Acom. Featherstone Amagus v
Shaw Croes; Hull Dockers v Ecclee, Millord v
Redfall, Normanton v Svirtaugh OTHER SPORT

Notingiam (734)
LACROSSE Shepherds Friendly Society
Leaguer Premier division: Boardman and
Eccles v Old Weponers. Heaton Mercey v
Poynton: Society v Chaudle Timperley v
Mootharpe, Hutnesins v Cheadle Hutne
ROWING: Reading Head of the River (230),
Cambridge v Thames, Tradesmon (Tideway,
330)
Santiallining: British July Learn, Cheminana. SWIMMUNG: British club team champion-SWIMMUNG: British dub team champion-stroupers (a) Stockport | VOLLEYBALL: National League: Men: First division: Potona Ealing v Malory Lewisham 77 0) Sportset Whitefield V Resbok Livetpool City (7.0): Warwick Riga v Leeds (6.30); Troding Aquila v Crotton Sportsweamouse (6.30), City of Stoke v Wessen (6.30)

### SNOW REPORTS Conditions Runs to Piste Ott/p resort (Cm) 160 good powder good (Perfect sluing conditions everywhere) 320 good powder good (Superb skiing throughout resort)

#### AUSTRIA Obergungl sun 0 27/2 Şt Anton 115 260 good varied good s (Great skiing under warm, sunny skies) 175 235 good powder good it (All pistes in excellent shape, superb skiing) Alpe d'Huez sun 0 27/2 hne 2 27/2 (115) BOWLS: Women's English national indoor champonships (at York) FENCING: World Cup men's epies: British round (at Kelvin Hells, Glasgow) ICE HOCKEY: Superleague play-olfs: Group A: Caroliff v Ayr (7.0) Group B: Normgnen v Bracknell (7.0) Group B: Normgnen v Bracknell (7.0) VOLLEYBALL: National League: Men: First division: Leadu v Wessex (11.30) Tignes SWITZERLAND Verbier 50, 230 50 230 good powder good sun (Fantastic conditions nearly all runs) 10 100 good varied lair fine (Pisles in very good shape thanks to new snow) fine Wengen Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes, U - upper

### RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S FOUR RACE MEETINGS.

4-3 (SE 19-20 11-100 min	G-37 (4) 1 (4) 17-41
9.00 venice selling stakes (22 623 54 ,6.	CLUB MATCH (Alger   Taurenia)
2 465 SOFFY 24 (BLDLA) 5 5200 464 (20 4 4 5 5 5 5 6 6 6 7 6 6 7 6 6 7 6 6 7 6 6 7 6 6 7 6 6 7 6 6 7 6 6 7 6 6 7 6 6 7	
4 6221 SYTTONS RISTAKE 9 (0.25 F) 1 24 4 4 4 4 4 1 2 4 4 5 1 5 1 4 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1 5	Newbury
S.2 Mijorn Missen Sid Feathering Lane Life by Rid Line From Sid Con.	2 00 11 11 name Splendid Thyrie
9.30 CHRISTIENSTED HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £2.762. 61) (7)	Splendid Thyrie 200 To 10 To 1
4.00 CHARRY 24 (CLAS) FIRST SEARCH FOR THE ACT OF THE A	Toe Javain F Green
	The state of the s
COURSE SPECIALISTS	3 3 Lord McMurrough =
TRANSPORT WINDOWS A MARKET TO THE PROPERTY OF	Holland House Mid-
1583 R Adules, 3 hors 20 1523 Thinking Services	

Takeamemo d Saar 5 lo 2 549

Gr. 20.1 Infamous 3-1 lay (f) 13 ran. \$1. 1. [Sherwood Tote 25 10, £1 60, £2 50, 65.2. [54] £11 4) Tino £105 70 CSF. 127.67 Jackpot £7,100,00 to 20 winning tickets pool of \$2,873,63 carried forward to Newbury today). Placepot £103.30 Quadpot £17.10. Kelso

RUGBY UNION

HOCKEY

Going good to soft soft in places
2.20. (in 11 cm.) Kalajo (B Storey, 10-1),
7. Exisperate Days (12-1), 3. Two For One
15-1, Can Me Black Evens tay (put 11 ran
15-9, 8. Butactaggan Tote £13.00 ±3.30,
14-7), (±10, 0.8, ±90.50, Tho. £62.50,
156, £94.54 2.50 Jm 11(yd hdier 1 Clash Of Swords 1 Wyer 8-11 fay, 2 Anha's Gem (33-1), 1 Gy Babr (6-4) Gran NR Jungle Feish 1 rd P Cates Tota \$1.80 \$1 10 \$7.80 UF \$23.80 CSF \$21.49

3.20 (3m at ch) 1 Off The Bru (Mr M Bradburne 4-1), 2. Ceilifth Boy (5-1), 3, Wheat Fettle (16-1) Judicious Ceptern 7-2 fav th 8 ran 9, hd Mrs 5 Bradburne

Tote £4 80, £1.70, £2 00, £2.90 DF: £12 50 CSF £22.09, Tricast: £256 61, 3.50 (2m 21 ridle) 1, Marrello (P Niven, 1-2 tav, Privatis Heridicapper's top rating); 2, Star Selection (14-1); 3, Dana Point (4-1) 6 ran, 8, 71 Mis M Reveloy, Tote £1.50, £1 40, £1 90, £1 10 DF £9.20, CSF £3.20 \$3.20
4.20 (3m 11 ch) 1, Jigtime (Mr M Bradburne, 5-2 lav); 2, Royal Jester (4-1); 3, Howayman (10-3) 8 fan 121, 61 J Hughes 10ce; 54.10; 51.30, £1.30, £1.20 OF \$5.60, CSF £11.60

0+ 15,80. CS + 11 80. 4.50 (2m 2) hdie) 1, Ingletonian (8 Storey, 9-2), 2, Easton (4-1), 3, Inaleisefails (12-1). Panah 5-2 fav 9 ran 5l, 2'4l B Mactaggari, Tote, £5,50; £1,60, £1,50, £2,70 DF: £15,50 Tno: £49 10 CSF; £22.28 Tricast £188.80. Placepot £140,80. Quadpot £12.80. Plumpton

Going: solt. heavy in places 2.10 (2m t/hole) 1. Rhythm And Bluss (8 Powell, 7-2); 2. Tonks (7-4 tay); 3. Into The Web (9-4), 8 ran NR. One in The Eye 6; 1.21 R Buckler Tone 25-60; 21.70, 21.20, 21.10 DF £4,60. Tho: £2,80 CSF: 59.54. 2.40 (2m ch) 1, Indian Arrow (C Maude, 11-8), 2, Court Master (11-10 fau), 3, Purbeck Cavaller (11-2), 6 ran, 15t, 9f M Pipe Tote £2 00; £1, 10, £1 20 0F £1 80, CSF £3 04

3.10 (3m 110yd hdic) 1. Roskeen Bridge (M. Richards, 6-1). 2. Danterillyoutrop (5-2 lav), 3. Mister Blake (7-1) 7 ran 1-1 Bl. C. Weedon, Tote: £8.50, £2.20, £1.50, DF £6.70 CSF: £18.47. 3.40 (3m 11 110yd ch) 1, Apatura Hati (W McFarland, 7-1), 2, Normarange (11-8 lav), 3, Fortytwo Dee (20-11, 9 ran Dust dst, 9 Alner Toler £7 80, £1 40, £1 20, £3 70, DF £6.50, Tno £74.70 CSF £15 37 11:37 4.10 (2m St ch) 1, Pavlova (D O'Sulhvan 16:1); 2, Winspir (4-1); 3, Beau Babillard (2-1), Mammy's Choice 15:58 (av 5 ran 3t 11) R Rowe, Toler 212,70; 22,40, 22,50 DF: £22.20 CSF £84.39

4.40 (2m 41 hdle) 1. Mayb-Mayb (A P McCoy, 2-1 fay); 2, St Ville (7-1); 3, Buta Voque (5-2) 7 ran. 8i, Si, J Neville, Tote E2 50. C1.30. E3.70. DF £9 50 CSF £14.99 Placepot £44.10. Quadpot: \$17-20.

Southwell Going: standard 2.15 (Im 48) 1, Maradi (R Mulen, 4-9 fav), 2, Good Day (12-1), 3, Woodland Nymph (5-1), 7 ran, 3 kl. nk, M Bell, Tote: £1.30; £1 (0, £7.90, DF: £5.20, CSF: £6.35 2.45 (1m 6f) 1, Grand Cru (A Culhane, 9-2); 2. Undawaierscupadwa (6-1), 3,

World Without End (8-1) El Nido 6-4 lav 9 nan. 2tvl. 111 Mrs M Reveley Tote 26 40, \$2.50. \$1.70, \$2.30 DF: \$20.80 Trio: \$25.50 CSF: \$25.41. 23.15 (6)) 1. Cretzn Gift [T G McLaughlin. 12-1), 2. Bold Fromier (6-1), 3. Broadstars Beauty (12-1). Bold Effort 4-1 ji-lev. 12 ran NR Elton Ledger. 1 VI, 6 N Latmoden Tole £17 40: £5 30, £2.50, £4 80 DF £64.60 Trio £216.00 CSF. £77.66 Tricast £836.64 783ast 2830 64
783ast 4.15 (1m) 1. Northern Fen (D McKeown, 3-1). 2. Flag Fen (12-1), 3. Desett Invader (11-2) Sarasi 11-8 fev. 7 ran. Nr. 3i N Tinkler Tote: C3 10; £1 90. £8 90 DF £14 70 CSF £32,42. 2.14 (0 LSF ESC.42.

4.45 (1rr, 4f) 1. Maftun (D Holland, 11-1)
2. Kalamentyra Gri (10-1); 3. African-Pard
(9-1). Kalament 2-1 lav. 13 ran. NRNortham Charmer 11, nk. G Moore Tote:
28 60, 24 60, 23.10, 22.90 DF 243 90.
Trio: 2228 30 (part word: pool of 23.22
cemed forward to 2.15 at Newbury 2.15
today). CSF £108.98 Tricasi: £960.72. Placepot: £1,926.90. Quadpot £119,30.

The Royal Bank of is as unbiased as ever in the sponsorship of its 44th Murrayfield International.

**YK** The Royal Bank **AK** of Scotland

**ARSENAL** 

Arsenal's pursuit of Paul Ince made no progress in Milan last Wednesday, but he seems sure to leave internazionale at the end of the season, not only because Roy Hodgson is going but also because he is being used outside his preferred central midfield role. Meanwhile, Arsenal will be without Seaman and Adams, who are injured, and Parlour, who is suspended, at Everton, although there is some chance that Keown, who had a fitness test yesterday. could be fit.



Is age finally beginning to catch up with Paul McGrath? Jim Smith, the manager, is sufficiently concerned about preserving the 37-year-old defender that he rested him for the midweek FA Cup tie against Coventry even though 1gor Stimac was also missing. "Paul has been playing twice a week for the last month and he was feeling tired." Smith said. Derby have conceded eight goals in their past three games and have Paul Trollope suspended for the visit of Chelsea this afternoon. RH

#### **ASTON VILLA**

Dwight Yorke needs to score six goals in the remaining 11 games to become the first Aston Villa player for 16 years to record 20 in a league campaign. There is no better incentive than to end the daily ribbing from the man who last hit that benchmark, in the 1981 championship year, namely Peter Withe. Yorke gave Withe, now the club's chief scout, some ammunition with a pair of missed penalties recently, but

is prepared to take responsibility against

### EVERTON

Liverpool tomorrow.

The departure of John Ebbrell this week left Everton looking even more threadbare as regards personnel. The 16 left tre in the squad," Joe Royle, the manager, joked yesterday. It might get worse, with Paul Rideout, the striker, poised to join Osvaldo Ardiles at F Pulse if the Japanese chib meets the £300,000 fee. There will certainly be some familiar faces at the training ground on Monday - Everton

have dropped their ban on the press after a two-week stand-off.

PB

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

against their opponents today, Middles-brough, a 4-2 defeat that embarrassed

David Pleat, the manager. "We were whacked up there, and I didn't enjoy it," he

said. "We came out of that game with no

credit at all and we must be intent on

putting the record straight." Pleat is likely to

sign the Plymouth Argyle youngster. Paul Wotton, after a successful trial. DM

SUNDERLAND

occasion. Reid's first choice was, apparent-

ly, Aston Villa's Tyneside-born forward

Peter Reid, the manager, has

enquired about the availability

of four strikers this week, but has been rebuffed on each

Wednesday can boast the best record in the Premiership, but their only defeat in 18 league

matches on that run was

#### BLACKBURN ROVERS

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

Just as he was beginning to act like a manager, along comes a full-time boss to signal an end to Tony Parkes's reign at Ewood Park. "It's normally a few weeks for a caretaker, but I've been in charge longer than a lot of full-time managers ever get," he joked yesterday. When asked if Per Pedersen's arrival means he will have to change his formation. Parkes responded: "It means I've got options. He can play instead of Chris Sutton, to put him under pressure for the first time." .. DM

#### LEEDS UNITED

A special treat for Leeds fans?

Tony Yeboah is expected to play his first game at Elland. Road for a year. Carlton Palmer is also in the squad. George Graham dismissing reports that the player was training with the youth team and would not play for Leeds again after a personality clash with the manager. "I don't have a personality clash with Carlton, Graham insisted. But Gary Kelly is suspended, and Tony Dorigo has a late fitness test on his hamstring.

**HOW THEY STAND** 

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26

43

Manchester United.

2 Liverpool..

Arsenal

Everton.

Blackburn

Wimbledon

Aston VIIIa

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+23

+26

+21 48 48

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**LTMMD** 

ME WWD

WITH WAT

#### CHELSEA

When Derby played at Chelsea and lost. Jim Smith, the manager, said that bad weather had robbed them of the chance to devise a man-marking scheme against Gianfranco Zola. They suffered in cousequence. This time, Zola may well be shadowed. Derby will surely also make more use of the pace of Dean Sturridge. It will be interesting to see whether Ruud Guillit himself plays, and whether he will deploy Vialli as he did in the second half on Wednesday against Leicester City. BG

#### LEICESTER CITY

Martin O'Neill, the manager, described the FA Cup exit at Chelsea as the lowest point of the season because of the diffuous nature of the deciding penalty. His tirade against which Reed, the referee, will go unpunished by the Rootball Association and he must lift the side for their filth game. in 13 days this afternoon, against Wimble don. "I do not have a cine how I am going to do that," O'Neill admitted. Kevin Poole deputises for Kasey Keller, who is on international duty.

#### COVENTRY CITY David Busst returns to Old

Trafford today for the first time since breaking his leg there last April, as a guest of Manchester United. The freak injury has required 15 operations to date and was so horrific that Peter Schmeichel, one of the Limited players nearby, required counselling. Busst, 29, settled last November and is considering a career selling accident insurance to professional players. United have agreed to play a benefit game against Coventry later in the RH vear...

#### LIVERPOOL

Addenma for Roy Evans, with Europe fast approaching. Does he play Bjorn Tore Kvarme, he play Bjorn Tore Kvarme, who is not available on Thursday, or give his Cup Winners Cup replacement Phil Babb a rungou? The answer, apparently, is that Kvarme's strength will be preferred, with the manager staying loyal to a defence that has not conceded a goal in the past fine league games. Neil Ruddock is fit and Patrik Berger has returned from interactional duty, so both should be on the beach. DM

#### MANCHESTER UNITED

With Cantona returning from suspension. United could unveil a new formation at Old Trafford this afternoon. Alex Ferguson, the manager, is expected to retain the new partnership of Cole and Solskjaer for their first home game together, with Cantona dropping in behind them. With Butt out and Keane almost certainly missing, Cantona may find Ronnie Johnsen as one of his midfield partners. The absence of Keane, however, means that Philip Neville will not start the game.

#### MIDDLESBROUGH

. RH

Mikkel Beck speaks four languages and is fluent in English but not Italian. This has caused communication problems with his attacking partner, Fabrizio Ravanelli. but now the Italian has learnt sufficient English to be able to make tactical points to his Danish side-kick. Accordingly Beck believes their relationship is fast improving. It takes time to settle down and Fabrizio and I have been no different but now we can talk and I believe things will get better and better between us."

#### NEWCASTLE UNITED

Dalglish: There is no Alan Shearer obsession here at Newcastle." Assorted media hacks: "Come again Kenny?" It is straight out of the "you could have fooled us" chapter of any self-respecting Book of Quotations, but the Newcastle manager was apparently serious. He intends to prove it today against Southampton with Asprilla and Beardsley vying for the available forward place. Ferdinand is two goals away from joining Shearer as the only player to score 100 Premiership goals.

#### NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Tommy Wright will complete his £450,000 transfer to Manchester City immediately after the game against Tottenham Hotspur today. Mark Crossley is suspended and Stuart Pearce, the caretaker-manager, insisted that Wright at present on loan at Maine Road, should return for just his eleventh league appearance since join ing Forest four years ago, before the deal became permanent. That leaves Alan Fettis, who thought he was Crossley's understudy, wondering what the future holds.

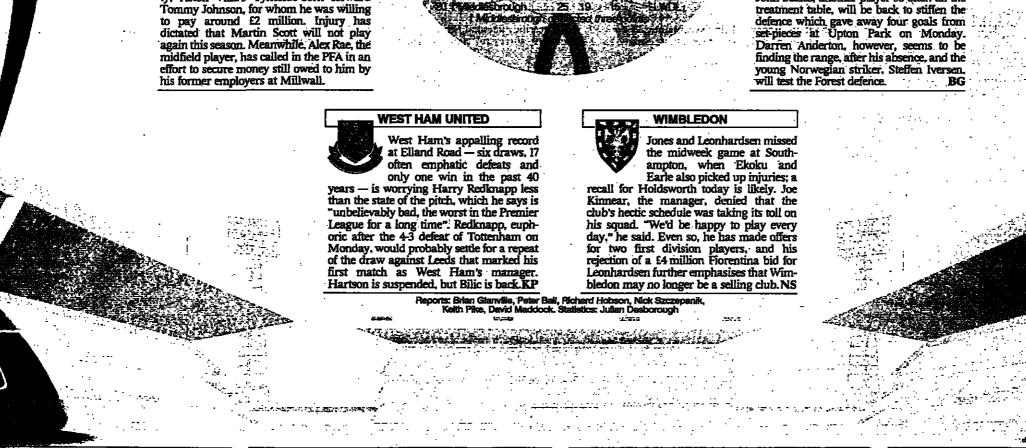
### SOUTHAMPTON

While one was allegedly telling the Southampton match programme about his role as the club's new part-time goalkeeping coach, another was denying all knowledge of the appointment. Almost as hard a man to spot at The Dell has been Francis Benali, the defender and cult figure, absent 13 times through suspension this season after three red cards. However, his cardless return on Wednesday coincided with another all-toorare event: a clean sheet for the team. NS

Are there two Ray Clemences?

#### TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

The bad news for Tottenham is that Teddy Sheringham is in-jured again, an ankle this time, and drops out, taking his opportunism with him. Better news is that John Scales, another player so often on the treatment table, will be back to stiffen the





**BLACKBURN ROVERS v** SUNDERLAND

10-YEAR RECORD: 6-1, --, 2-2, 1-1, --, 2-2, --, --, --, --,

HOW THEY LINE UP SLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T Flowers, H Berg, J Kenne, C Hendry, G Le Saux, T Sherwood, G Flitcroft, J Wilcox, K Gallacher, C Sutton, G Donis, S Given, P Warhurst, P Pedersen, N Marker, L Bohinen, D Duff.

SUNDERLAND (from): L Perez, G Hall, D Kubicki, R Ord, A Melville, L Howey, K Bail, P Bracewell, M Gray, D Williams, J Mullin, D Kelly, A Rae, C Russell, M Smith, D Preece, J Erlksson.



10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 2-2, 0-1, 3-0, 2-0, 4-0, 5-0, 0-0, 2-0, 1-0.

HOW THEY LINE UP MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, G Neville, G Pallister, D May, D Irwin, D Beckham, R Keane, R Glogs, E Cantona, A Cole, O G Solskjær, K Poborsky, B McClair, P Neville, R Johnsen, R van der

COVENTRY CITY (from): S Ogrizovic, P Telfer, R Shaw, G Breen, D Dublin, J Williams, M Hall, K Richardson, E Jess, G McAlfister, P Ndlovu, N Whelan, D Huckerby, B Borrows, W Boland, A Eviushok,



WIMBLEDON v

LEICESTER CITY

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, ---, ---, ---, ---, ---, 2-1, ---.

HOW THEY LINE UP

WIMBLEDON (from): N Sullivan, P Heald, K Curningham, A Kimble, C Perry, D Blackwell, D Jupp, B McAllister, R Earle, M Gayle, D Holdsworth, E Ekoku, J Goodman, P Fear, V Jones, O Leonhardson,

LEICESTER CITY (from): K Poole, S Grayson, S Waish, M Elifott, S Prior, J Watts, J Lawrence, M Izzet, S Campbell, N Lennon, S Wilson; G Parker, M Robins, S Claridge, E Heskey, I Marshall, P Hyda,

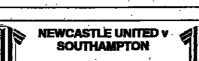


**DERBY COUNTY v** CHELSEA



TICKETS: Sold out 10-YEAR RECORD: -, 2-0, --, 0-1, 4-6, --, --, --, --, HOW THEY LINE UP

DERBY COUNTY (from): R Hoult, G Rowett, P McGrath, C Dailly, L Carsley, R van der Lean, A Asanovic, D Powell, J Laursen, A Ward, D Sturridge, I Stimac, R Willerns, P Simpson, S Flynn, M Taylor. CHELSEA (from): F Grodas, F Sinclair, E Johnsen, F Leboeuf, S Clarke, S Minto, D Wise, R Di Metteo, E Newton, G Zola, M Hughes, A Myers, P Hughes, M Nicholls, R Guillit, G Vialli, J Monte, N Coligan.



TICKETS: Sold out. 10-YEAR RECORD: 2-0, 2-1, 3-8, --, --, --, --, 1-2, 5-1, 1-0.

HOW THEY LINE UP

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): S Histop, S Watson, P Albert, D Peacock, R Elliott, W Barton, R Lee, L Clark, K Gillespie, L Ferdinand, P Beardsley, F Asprilla, D Ginola, P Smicek, J Crawford.

SOUTHAMPTON (from): M Taylor, J Dodd, F Bensii, C Lundelvern, S Charlton, J Magilton, E Berkovic, A Nelson, R Steter, M Le Tissier, E Ostenstad, K Monkou, R Dryden, S Besham, U veri Gobbel, N Moss,



ASTON VILLA v LIVERPOOL

TICKETS: Sold out



MONDAY

10 YEAR RECORD: 2-2, --, 1-1, 1-1, 0-0, 1-0, 4-2, 2-1, 2-0, 0-2; HOW THEY LINE UP:

ASTON VILLA: M Bosnich, F Nelson, A Wright, U Ehiogu, G Southgete, R. Scimeca or C Tiler, I Taylor, M Draper, A Townsend, D Yorke: S Nilneans

LIVERPOOL (probable): D. larries, J. McAteer, S. i Bjornebys, M. Wright, B. Kverme, D. Matteo, J. Barnes, S. McMarsernen, J. Hedkrispp, R. Fowler, S. Collymore, Substitutes: M. Thomas, A. Warner, N. Ruddock,



**ARSENAL** 



10-YEAR RECORD: 0-1, 1-2, 1-3, 3-0, 1-1, 3-1, 0-0, 1-1, 1-1, 0-2. HOW THEY LINE UP

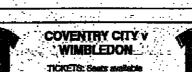
EVERTON (from): P Gerrerd, N Southall, E Barrett, D Unsworth, D Watson, J Parkinson, T Phelan, G Stuart, P Rideout, D Ferguson, G Speed, N Bermby, C Thomsen, M Hottiger, C Short, M Branch. ARSENAL (from): J Lukic, L Dixon, N Winterburn, S Marshall, S Morrow, M Keown, R Garde, D Platt, P Vielra, D Bergkamp, I Wright, S Hughes, M Rose, L Harper, G McGowen, I Renkin.



10-YEAR RECORD: -: --, 1-0, 2-0, --, 2-3, --, --, 6-1. HOW THEY LINE UP

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K Pressmen, S Nicol, I Noten, D Walker, J Newsome, D Stefanovic, G Hyde, W Collins, M Pernbridge, R Humphreys, B Carbone, A Booth, D Hirst, L Briscoe, S Oakes, R Bilnker, M Clarke, O Trustitel, O Donaldson.

MIDDLESBRIOUGH (tram): M Schwarzer, N Cox, N Pearson, G Feste; S Vickers, D Whyte, C Fleming, C Hignett, Emerson, R Mustoe, Juninho, P Stamp, E Revenetti, M Beck, B Roberts, C Blackmora,



HOW THEY LINE UP COVENTRY CITY (trant): S Ograzovic, P Teller, R Shaw, G Brean, D Dublin, J Williams, M Hell, K Richardson, E Jesa, G McAllister, P Noticyu, N Whelen, D Huckarby, B Borrows, W Bolland, A Evizablok

10 YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 3-3, 2-1, 2-1, 0-0, 0-1, 0-2, 1-2, 1-1, 3-3.

WMBLEDON (from): N°Sullivan: P Reeld, K Currenghem, A Kimble, C Peny, D Blackwell, D Jupp, B MoAlister, R Earle, M Gaylo, D Roldsworth, E Bloke, I Goodman, P Fear, V Jones, O Leonhardsen,



LEEDS UNITED v **WEST HAM UNITED** 

10-YEAR RECORD: --, --, 3-2, --, 0-0, --, 1-0, 2-2, 2-0.

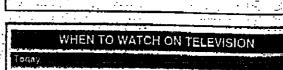
HOW THEY LINE UP LEBOS UNITED (from): N Martyn, G Halle, R Molenaar, C Palmer, A Dorigo, I Harte, I Rush, L Bowyer, L Radebe, M Jackson, L Sharpe, B Deane, A Yeboeh; R Waltace, D Wetherall, M Ford, M Beeney. WEST HAM UNITED (from): L Miklosko, T Breacter, S Potts. R Ferdinand, S Billic, J Dicks, M Bowen, J Moncur, I Bishop, P Kitson, M Hughes, I Dowie, K Rowland, H Porfitio, L Sealey, F Lampard, S Mean.





10-YEAR RECORD: 2-3, 1-1, 1-2, 2-3, 1-1, 1-2, 2-1, --, 1-4, 0-1. HOW THEY LINE UP

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I Walker, S Campbell, C Calderwood, C Wilson, D Howells, D Anderton, R Fox, A Sinton, R Rosenthal, S Cerr, S Nethercott, J Edinburgh, E Beardsen, A Nielsen, J Scales, D Austin. NOTTINGHAM FOREST (tram): T. Wright, A. Fettis, D. Lyttle, A.I. Haeland, C. Cooper, S. Chettie, S. Pearca, D. Phillips, S. Gennalli, C. Alfan, K. Campbell, D. Saunders, P. McGregor, B. Roy, S. Blatherwick

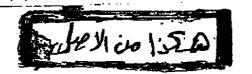


10.45pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights, includes Ne United v Southempton)

Spm Sky Sports 1 Aston Villa v Liverpool (live) 7pm Sky Sports 3 Coventry City v Wimbledon (live)

4-6: Manchester, 3-1: Liverpook 9-2: Nieucastie; 14-1: Chalses, 25-1: W Assenal, 66-1: Aston Ville; 200-1: SHeffield Wednesday; Olds supplied by The official internet site of the FA Casting Premierable is at http://www.fa-casting.com

Lan Garage





Gul pati st fla

### O'Neill calls on Guppy to patrol left flank

By Richard Hobson and David Maddock

dressed Leicester City's weakness along the left flank for the second time within a fortnight yesterday when he signed Steve Guppy from Port Vale for £850,000. Robert Ullathorne, the first man he bought to replace the injured Mike Whitlow, was ruled out for the season when he broke an ankle just 11 minutes into his first game after arriving from Osasuna for £600,000.

That mishap occurred in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final first leg against Wimbledon and, in spooky coincidence, Wimbledon provide the opposition in the FA Carling Premiership today when Guppy, 27, will make his debut.

He is well known to O'Neill. having spent four years under his charge at Wycombe Wanderers and helping them to win promotion from the Vauxhall Conference into the Football League in 1993. He recently turned down the offer of a new contract at

Bradford City yesterday signed Nigel Pepper, the midfield player, from York City for £100,000. The 28-year-old made 281 appearances for York after moving from his home-town club. Rotherham United, in 1990, scoring 45 goals — 14 of them this season.

Vale, which effectively left John Rudge, the manager, forced to sell before the end of the season to get a return. It is, however, a huge blow to Vale's prospects of reaching the Nationwide League first division

O'Neill said that he was "desperate" to sign a left-sided player. He has a bit of quality on the ball, a great delivery and I think if he had a little more pace he would have played in the Premiership earlier." he said. Guppy originally left Wycombe to join Newcastle United under Kevin Keegan, but did not make a league appearance with them.

The signing is a further bucking the trend in the transfer market. Movement between Premiership clubs has stagnated, but O'Neill is happy to promote players from the lower divisions while other managers look abroad. huge success since arriving stance.

from Crewe Alexandra for £750,000 12 months ago, while O'Neill paid a club record £1.6 million to bring Matt Elliott, a central defender, from Oxford United in January.

For a man with a reputation for swanning around a golf course, Kenny Dalglish has been dilligent in the extreme since assuming the position of manager at Newcastle. Barely a night has passed without his familiar frozen features look-ing on intensely from the stands at a match somewhere

Last Wednesday evening it was Paris for France versus Holland and, it seems, his industry could finally pay off.

Dalglish was at the international to watch Robert Pires and the young France attacker

did not disappoint.
The Metz midfield player scored the winning goal in a 2-1 victory, and Newcastle were apparently impressed enough to insmediately initiate talks with his club, Metz, their opponents in the previous round of the Uefa Cup.

Not least among the attractions of the 21-year-old Pires is that he can operate virtually anywhere across the midfield or forward line, but he is happiest when moving forward, a bonus given that Alan Shearer will be absent for at least the next six weeks with a groin injury.

Dalglish was as tight-lipped

as ever over the possibility of signing the 15 million-rated player, who is also coveted by Internazionale, saying only:
If there is anything in it then you will be the first to know when he signs. I have got to watch matches and it is my job to bring in quality players. If I don't then I won't be doing my b properly."

Celtic have made considerable progress in their attempt to secure compensation for the loss of John Collins after the announcement by Fifa, the world governing body, that the advice of the European Commission is being sought. Collins joined AS Monaco last summer and the club, who are in the French league, paid no fee, believing the midfield was covered by the

Bosman ruling.
The Scottish club argued. however, that Monaco itself is not a part of France and, therefore, does not fall within European Union law. Fifa initially dismissed Celtic's Neil Lennon has been a case but has now altered its

### Old name in the new Forest

IRVING **SCHOLAR** 

THE FACE OF **FOOTBALL** 

By Richard Hobson

eaning against the bar, he alternately sipped coffee and took long draws on a succession of cigarettes. He wanted anonymity, to remain inconspicuous to the journalists gathered on the afternoon following the night before to discover what lay ahead for the new Nottingham Forest. He followed their eyes to a makeshift stage where three men spoke of the future and the uncertainties it holds. Irving Scholar was out of

sight, but not of mind. Once the most high-profile of club chairmen during his nine years at Tottenham Hotspur, he could hardly expect to return to the game as part of the successful consortium that bought Forest last week without causing a few raised eyebrows. He was, after all. described as many things during that tenure, but rarely

as shy.
Why is he back at all? And why, at what should have been a triumphalistic press conference, did he stand to one side? "I would rather go about everything I do quiet-ly." he said. "I have not undertaken interviews since the takeover went through with a great deal of relish."

Perhaps it has something to do with the anticipated line of questioning. The fixtures computer sends Forest to White Hart Lane this afternoon and although Alan Sugar, Scholar's successor as Tottenham chairman, has extended an invitation to his predecessor it is not likely to be accepted. He does not want to talk about his former dub, the one he supported passionately and continued to watch even after stepping

down six years ago. He has not seen Tottenham live now for three years, from the time that the Football Association fined the club £1.5 million because of irreguavments to ing his period as chairman. Yet he has continued to

follow more general trends within the game from his home in Monte Carlo. Indeed, when business begins to settle down at the City Ground, he will undertake



much of his work as a football consultant from Monaco. His strength, he believes, will be in "oiling a few wheels" in transfer dealings. Within hours of the Bridgford group being ap-proved by shareholders, he

had discussed possible signings with Stuart Pearce, the caretaker-manager. Pearce is not a man to suffer fools, so when he said that he was "pleasantly sur-prised" by Scholar's knowledge of the game, he was not being sycophantic. "I am not

surprised that Stuart was surprised." Scholar said. "I think a lot of people would agree with the joke in Len Shackleton's old book — the page titled What the average director knows about football', which is then left blank. I made a lot of friends in the and good friendships last a lifetime."

Scholar's input into the club is believed to be around £3 million of the £19 million total investment. The club hopes to float on the Stock Exchange before the end of

the year, possibly sooner. Here is a further example of a club rushing to raise funds 14 years on from Scholar's Tottenham becoming the first to

At the moment football is going through a catching up process," Scholar said. "Some terrible things happened to the game in the Eighties and the City did not take the football sector seriously until television companies came in with deals worth hundreds of millions of pounds. All clubs have terrific potential while they are successful and as long as they are playing

t present, Forest are neither successful nor playing attractively. They are third from bottom of the FA Carling Premiership. Having funds is one thing. but attracting a striker of repute when relegation beckons is quite another.

Yet Scholar clearly sees potential at the City Ground. In fact, it is precisely the under-investment and oldfashioned practices about the

attractive proposition last summer when he was ap-proached by Phil Soar, the driving force behind the bid. have had a lot of offers since I left Tottenham, but this was the first time I thought seriously about getting involved because there is so much scope."

Given everything that went wrong at Tottenham, from the unpopular redevelopment of "the Shelf" part of the ground, the clandestine courting of Robert Maxwell and consequent suspension of share dealing, and the Inland Revenue investigation that followed his resignation. Scholar's biggest disappoint-ment in football is perhaps a little surprising.
"It was the 1962 European

Cup semi-final, when Spurs lost to Benfica. I was a 14-year-old schoolboy on the terraces. Football has you in the clouds one minute and smacks you on the bottom the next." Forest have taken a thoroughly good hiding of late. They must hope they are in more loving hands now.

### Devilish way to force yourself into the running

Tew people are more odi-ous than those who prey on the inexperience of the young. Torn Lehrer sings the ballad of The Old Dope Pedlar "He gives the kids free samples, because he knows full well, that today's young innocent faces, will be tomor-

row's clientele." However, the young are today's clientele, so far as the various plimsoll-makers of the world are concerned, and their stock-in-trade is brand-name mania at its most odious. How wonderful it is, then, to hear of a total brand-name disaster pioneered by none other than

Reebok. Reebok released 60,000 pairs of plimmies, designed pecifically as training shoes for women; and they came up with the exciting, really rather subtly sexy brand-name of Incubus. They liked the feel of the word; perhaps, like Humpty Dumpty, they be-lieved that words can mean

what you choose.

However, there is, in Phoenix, Arizona, a disc jockey who can read, and he troubled to look up this exciting word in the dictionary, and told the world what he had found. My own Shorter Oxford tells all: A feigned evil spirit or demon, supposed to descend upon persons in their sleep, and especially to seek carnal intercourse with women. In the Middle Ages their existence was recognised by law."

In other words, Reebok was trying to market a plimsoll named after a spiritual rapist. What next? Dave Fogelson, of Reebok, said: "The staffers responsible happen no longer to be with the company, perhaps enjoying the favours of succubi on the astral plane. Think how much money Reebok would have saved with one phone call to this column.



### Spitting image

paring to prosecute footballers under article 726 of the Italian penal code, which jumps on anybody who "in a public place commits acts contrary to public decency." Luciano Di Perdo and Michele Scialandrone intend to throw the weight of the law on "loutish players who continually spit after a movement has come to an end, and emit from the mouth and nose, through a typical gesture of pressing the nostril with a finger, jets of saliva." Maximum penalty: a month in prison or a fine of

### A for anonymity

Further to my recent piece on the sad fate that tends to meet football clubs whose names begin with the letter A — a fate hanging in Damoclesian fashion over AFC Bournemouth -Louis Burgess writes to document the fate of the A teams. He offers: Accrington Stanley, resigned from the Football League in March 1962; Aldershot, resigned from the Foot-

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

ball League in the 1990s; Aberdare, who lost their league place to Torquay in 1927; Ashington, who lost their league place in 1929 to York City; and Argonauts, who, in 1928, missed out on a place in 1928. the league despite polling 16 votes. The erudite Mr Burgess suggests that Arsenal should prepare to join the Bundesliga immediately — which would leave Aston Villa in the vulnerable slot behind them.

Passing the buck Blaming the umpire is ungra-cious, but it displays a kind of idiot optimism, without which sport is scarcely even possible I read, in the latest edition of Wisden Cricket Monthly, that Pakistan

women recently held their first official overseas tour, and are to be congratulated on that milestone. They concluded this with two one-day games against the New Zeaınd national women's team. In one match New Zealand scored 455 for five in their 50

overs, to which Pakistan re-plied with 47 all out in 23 overs. In the other, Pakistan batted first amd were bowled out for 56, and New Zealand knocked them off in 8.1 overs. That was when Shaiza Khan. the Pakistan captain, criticised the umpires. It would not doubt have been a closerun thing with better officiating.

#### A man's game

You would have thought that, after a career of umpiring the sport of Australian "no rules" football, cricket was a reasonably quiet option. Alas, Geoff Morrow, who turned to cricket umpiring after a distinguished career in "no rules", was involved in the incident when David Saker, a quick bowler from Victoria "snotted", to use a little Australian vernacular. Dean Head the England A bowler. thought I would be safe." he said. "Cricket is meant to be a game for gentlemen, but I soon realised it is a game of competitive sport, involving males, and they are liable to do all sorts of things."

### Famous five

The race is on for the readers of this space to predict the five Wisden cricketers of the year: naturally, a copy of Wisden 1997 goes to the five who most nearly approach the choice of the editor, Matthew Engel. The award by tradition goes to the five men who have most enriched the previous English season, and can never be won twice, but Engel has, he hints. played a wild card this year: it is up to you to read that labyrinthine mind. I await your pot-shots at this with interest. Could the wild card he Javasuriva, do you think? He certainly warmed up, albeit at long range, an English

### Francis sees stock tumble among supporters

BIRMINGHAM City's most recent programme ran an advertisement for shares in the club. It carried the routine warning that their value can go down as well as up. The optimism of last summer dispelled, supporters are entitled to muse that the same applies to their team.

À run of six successive defeats, four of them at home, including the FA Cup loss against Wrexham, has left Birmingham fifth from bottom of the Nationwide League first division. This afternoon they play Grimsby Town, who are second from bottom. and with biting North Sea winds whistling around Cleethorpes,

Blundell Park will be an inhospitable

Experience taught Trevor Francis that his status as one of the most popular players in Birmingham's history, a gifted striker who scored four goals in a game at just 16, would not cocoon him from criticism if he failed to bring about success as manager when he accepted the job eight months ago. He could not have forseen just how quickly a section of the crowd would voice their disapproval or how results would decline so catastrophically.

Birmingham have been booed off the field on a number of occasions and the attendance for the match against Port Vale last Sunday

13.192 — was the lowest of the season. In the local newspapers and on radio phone-ins, Francis has been criticised for his signings, for the sale of Gary Breen to Coventry City, even at \$2.5 million, and for his appearances on television as an "expert summariser" at a time when performances of his own side are not endorsing his authority to fulfil that role.

David Sullivan, a director and ioint owner, has emphasised that Francis is safe in his job. quashing rumours that Steve Bruce, the defender signed from Manchester United during the close season at a reported salary of £13,000 a week, will become player-manager. The relationship between Sullivan and Francis, though, has not always been smooth.

This week, Francis, the club's seventh manager in ten years, will have an extra £4 million at his disposal after the flotation, giving him around £5 million to spend in all. By a coincidence, his outlay since taking charge has been £5.02 million, but the return has been poor.

Indeed, the most successful player this season has been Paul Devlin, who was signed by Barry Fry from Notts County for £225,000. Devlin was considering his own future at the start of the season when Francis signed Paul Furlong and Mike Newell to lead the forward line at a combined cost of £2.275 million.

Neither comes close to matching Devlin's 16 goals. Francis has not shrunk from the

criticism or glossed over performances. He is entitled to point out that postponements over Christmas and new year pushed them from ninth, chasing a play-off spot, to eighteenth, without playing a game. I have to look at the overall picture

of what we are trying to achieve, not only this season, but in future years," Francis said, philosophically. The mood at the moment seems to be that everything is wrong. There is no reasoning of the larger picture. To me this seems indicative of modern society. We have got the foundation of a very competitive side."

### FOR THE RECORD

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First | division: Assensi | Luton | Southampton 3 CIS LEAGUE: Second division: Banstoad WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Cardicticut 3 Crockerhal 2 ESSEX SEMOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Ford United 3 East Harn 1 SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Snickers Under 19 Trophy: Ardingly 3 Midleid 1 Piccator Coll 2 Rioge Danyon 3 English Schools Goodyear Under-18 Trophy: Winterpool 1 Bedmanute Down 2 English Schools Gris Under-16 Vinito Trophy: Winterpool of Siris Under-16 Vinito Trophy: Montegravery HS 3 Strebard GS 1 BUSA CHAMPIONSHIPS: Semi-faralis: Merc Nottingham 1 Loughborough 0 Women: Lespool John Moores 2 Crowe 6. SPANISH CUP. Quarter-finals, first leg: Liz Patmas; 0 Español Q, Racang Santander 1 Colla Vigo 2

1 Colta Vigo 2 DUNHALL CUP: Semi-linals: China 3 Zimbabwe 1, Bashia 1 Malaysia 0 (both e Kusta Lumpur).

DUBAL: Desert Classic: Leaders effer two rounds (Great Brian and tetand urbess stated 134; Direcptal (Spi 65, 69, 196; B Langer (Gort 66, 70; I Woornson 69, 67, 137; Clandrigament 65, 72; B Burne 58, 69 198; P Harmagton 66, 72; R Groom (Aus.) 70, 68 199; C Rocca (In 70, 63, A Cidcam 68, 70; K Enterson (Seet 123, 71; R Coles 69, 70; G Norman Aus.) 71, 68, M A Martin (Spi 70, 69; P Markesang (Inai) 68, 71, 140; R Cresman 69, 71; P McGarley 69, 71; J Singh (India) 68, 71; M Marchera 68, 71, 141; I Googde (Gort 69, 72; R Wills (Aus) 68, 73; D Cooper 72, 69; W Wester' (SA) 73; D Cooper 72, 69; W Wester' (SA) 73; D Cooper 72, 69; W Wester' (SA) 74; P J J Johnson 56; 72; B J Googde (F) 77; P J J Johnson 56; 73; D Gallod 69, 73; R Water F) 87; D Chang 1se-peng (Thai) 70, 72; 149; P Rater 69, 74; R Leas 69; 74; E Darty 66, 77; J Coopers (Ang) 70, 74; D Cooper 73, 70, J M Okazibal (Sp) 69, 74; B Lane 72, 71; J Haeggman (Swel 72, 71; M Lane 72, 71; J Haeggman (Swel 72, 71; M

Tunnediff 70, 73, P Prico 70, 73, P Methes 70, 73 Turmstiff 70, 73, P Price 70, 73, P Mitchell 70, 73
PACIFIC PALISADES, California: Nissan Open Leading first-round scores fulniced States unless stated 65 P Sexant. S Hoch 68: N Fation (GB), P Goydos, 67: D Pooley, M O Media, T Witcon F Funk, F Ledder, T Purbar 68: F Couples, D Ogen, P Jacobsen, R Estes, S McCamon, 68: N Triplett, S Simpson, S Dunlap, D Waldorf, E Dougherty, D Stocklam Jr. S Simper D Edurards, J Delaing, E authory J Maggert, S Appetry (Auc), R Froeman, 1 Tyroc Other scores: 70: T Woods 71: E Bc, 634
GOLD COAST: Australian women's mesters: Leaders after Non rounds (Australia unless stated) 134: G Garlein (Can) 56, 68 136: K Webb 69, 66 137: C Somestam (Swell 67, 71: L Bernstrut (20) 68, 69 138: C Fcg-Currer (ISS 67, 71, Se R Pak (S Non) 70: 66 138: P Hunti 125 69, 71
140: C Johnson (US) 69, 71, S Gestation (Swell 68, 103) 70. 71 L Dandel (GB) 69, 72 142: A Remain (US) 73, 428 E Chamman (US) 74, 28 E Challed (Swell 71) 71 M McGaire (MC) 69, 73, V Somer (US) 70, 71; V Gotto (US) 72, 73 Other European scores: 144: H Dobson (GB) 72, 73
146: J Mortey (GB) 73, 74 148: C H) Noch (Swel) 75, 72, C Listathow (GB) 74, 74, K Marchall (GB) 73, 71. C Nitement (Swell 74, 74, K Marchall (GB) 73, 74

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL). Boston 6 Tampa Bay 2: Detrot 4 Pittsburgh 1, Florida 3 St Louis 2 (OT). New Jerry 4 Suffaio 1; Dallas 6 Goloratio 2: Vancouver 6 Process 2, Los Angeles 6 Edmonton 3.

bod Corpus Christi. Perhibroke il bod Jesus II Christi's il bod LMBC il Traniy Hall il bod Peterhouse il Third divisioni Francisiam il bod Magdislene il Churchial il bod Schryn il, si Catharne's il bod Emmanuel il Downng il bod Gerton il, Wolfson bod Jesus III. Humenton bod Corpus Christi il, Hughas Hall bod LMBC IV Fourth division; Darwin bod Chuschii il, Tondy Hall ill bod King's il, Gerton il bod Schney Susser III. Christ's ill bod Permitone ill is Edmanna's bod Addentoroole's Causa ill bod Jesus IV Fitth christon; Chuschii IV bod St Catharne's III. 1st & 3rd Traniy il bod Roberson ill. Selevy ill bod Schrey Susser IV. 1st & 3rd Traniy il bod Roberson ill. Selevy ill bod Schrey Susser IV. 1st & 3rd Traniy ill bod Peterhouse ill Women; Fisth christin: Jesus bod New Hall. St Catharno's bod Churchi IV bod Schrey Susser. Verson ill perhipping bod Christin ill. Ist & 3rd Traniy ill. Ist & 3rd Ist & 3r

**RUGBY UNION** 

A international match 33 Ireland Scotland A: Tree: Enkisson 2, C Muntay 2, Kerr. Core: Doresidson 4 Ireland A: Trees: Wood; 2, Casto, Halvey, Hogan, Cons. Lurch 3, Perr Lunch.

Lynch 3 Perc Lynch (at Myreside) Under-21 international match 0 keland

ireland Under 21: Tries: Bell Coulter, Dempsty, Easterby, Famili Pens: O'Gara 2. (at Myreside) CLUB MATCHES: Madras Coll Lansdowne 22; Dunbar 40 Sveries 15

Walkato 23 Welkington
Walkato Chiefs: Tries: Little, Rush. Osborno Con: Cooper Peres: Cooper 2 Wellingtion Hurricanes: Tries: Curninghem,
Umaga Con: Proston. Peris: Preston 2.

Lat Palmorston North)

Super 12 tournament

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: English Fire Services 48 Northern Iroland Fire Services 11 Scottish Universities 5 Insh Universities 27 SKIING

HAKUBA, Japan. World Cup event: Women's downhilt: 1, W Zelenskaja (Russ) Inn 35 59sec: 2, H Lindri (US) 1736 01. 3. C Mornitel (F) 136 03; 4, P Wiseng (Swe) 136 09: 5, K Sezznger (Ger) 136 31, 6, H Zutnogen (Sweiz) 136 35, 7, 8 Goetschi Austray 136 56, Downhilt standings: 1, Zuhngapan 389 (s. 2, Goetschi 343; 3, Zelenskaja 323 Overati World Cup stand-ings: 1, Wiberg 1,475 pls. 2, Seconger 990; 3, H Gerg (Ger) 834

SNOOKER VALLETTA, Mailler: European Open: Quar-ter-finals: k Doherty (se) bit P Bodon (Eng) 5-3; J Hagans (Scot) bit S Lee (Eng) 5-3, J Wattana (Thai) bit S Hendry (Scot) 5-2. **TENNIS** 

MILAN: Men's tournament: Second round: A Bortech (Fr) bit M Rosset (Switz) 3-6.7-6. 6-4. N Kieler (Gen bit M Morieli (ii) 6-3. 6-4. Quarter-finais: D Prinosi (Gen) bit P Korda (C2) 4-6. 7-6. 8-3. G kenisevic (Cro) bit D Vacoti (C2) 6-3. 6-7. 6-4. PHILADEJ-PHA: Men's bournament: Second round: S Stole (Aus.) bit J Viloca (Sp) 4-6. 6-3. 6-4: B Black (Zimi bit T Woodbridge (Aus.) 6-3. 5-7. 6-2: P Sampras (US) bit J Biorismen (Swe) 7-5. 7-6. CROYDON: LTA men's Indoor satellite bournament: Finat: J Delgade (GB) bit M Statiling (Swe) 2-6. 6-3. 6-3.

### Heybridge prepares for day to remember NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

HEYBRIDGE Swifts, who re- manager of five seasons, who tain their identity at the edge of the growing Essex town of Maldon, will be pressing all their volunteer workforce into service as they prepare to entertain Kidderminster Harriers in the third round of the FA Limbro Trophy today. We played Gillingham in

the first round of the FA Cup two years ago but the game was played at Colchester, so it's by far the biggest game ever staged on our own ground. Michael Gibson, the Heybridge chairman, said. That Scrakey Road - developed on a former carrot field

is now capable of holding an anticipated 2,500 is because the club spent £100,000 taking it up to leis League premier division standard. The improvements enabled Heybridge to move up, having finished second in the first division last season, and cap the work of Garry Hill, their

was a surprise appointment.

Chelmsford Sunday League and a lot of people thought I was mad," Gibson said, "but he's made a lot of people eat their words." The same might he said of those who questioned the appointment of Gibson to the committee in 1957 at the age of 15, "I wasn" good enough to play for Heybridge, but I was mad about the club and I was asked to join the committee as a junior member," he said.

very promising youngsters."

"He'd only managed in the

Forty years later - having been chairman for the past 14 Gibson believes that Heybridge have probably reached their highest level. Yet he is bullish about their prospects today. "We beat Grays 3-0 on Tuesday and are unbeaten in five matches," he said. "We've got a number of experienced players and some

BASKETBALL BUDWESER LEAGUE: Leopards 108 Locester 95 

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA). Cleve-tand 73 Cheago 70: LA Lakers 122 Washington 107, Minnesota 107 Dakes 106 (OT) Charlotte 106 Houston 95 Utah 118

BOWLS YORK: English Women's Indoor Bowls
Association national championships:
Pours: First round: King George Reid (J
Arman) bi Prince Arbur (L. Ryam) 24-18.
Chartel (S Leon) bit Englinyton Court (J
Ceums) 25-9; County Arts (E Shorten 19; Ancots (M Cabane) 19-18; Phymouth Mayfroser (M Jensen) bi Becatos (G Sman)
20-17; Wealden (M Reoves) bit Nationals
J Themas) 19-16; Richardson's (B
Stubbings) bit Tye Green (S Boomfield
21-18; Solient (B Tim 11 Himmater (B Kisson)
24-15; Egham (D Hanker) bit Destington (M
Shae) 24-14

CRICKET TOUR MATCH: Taupo (final day of two) Northern Destrets 118 and 161-4 (M Perlane 65; M Murakheran 4-42). Sn Lanharro 256 (R S Muhanoma 100 ret. H P Techeramo 90; G Brachrum 6-23) Match drawn SAARC TOURNAMENT. Final. Dheke (one day): Pakistan A 198 (Asil Mujaba 91):

India A 124-5. Pakistan Awm on faster run toto STRIPE CUP (first day of four) RED STRIPE CUP (first day of four) Reseau, Dominica: Windward Hands 199 (J. R. Murray 100), Timedad and Tobago 91: Georgetown: Guyana v Barbardou— no play, san **CRESTA RUN** 

PROGER CIBBS CHALLENGE CUP: 1. Lord Wrothesky (GB) 12675xc 2 F G Garsser (Satz) 12687 3, H Schredand (GB) 13598, 4 P J Lauden (tel 12744 5 C Vormoos (Satz) 12767 8, G Pitsch (Satz) 12814

ALCASSER: Tour of Valencia: Third stage: I. E.Zabol (Coru Str. Germ 2014c, 2. E. Leon. (th. 3. 3 Secrado (Cor. 4. 5 Smelatarre (Fasts) 5. Z. Spitzon (Foll. 6. M. Zberg. Sentz), 7. F. Colomos (th. 8. M. Coplini (tt); 9. P. Charteu (Fin. 10. M. Struzzer (m. al sarte time Overall standings: 1, Zuber (3th 36 on 14 dec., 2. Leon.; 3. Spitzon 4 sarte hime. 3. Spruch 4 (20ed, 3 to vali nectury Hoth all same hime Intelligence (20ed, 3 to vali nectury (20ed, 1234)) 1, G. Bugma III, 3th Oltman 26sec. 2, J. Tamber (68) 3 01, 26: 3, F. Hotz (Sarczi 3 01, 26. Other British placings: 42, 9 Simch at 15sect. 33, J. Winn at 15men 36sec. Overall standings. 1, L. Scarlic (20e. 59men 23ec. 2, J. Volgi (Aus.) at 2min 24sec, 3, A. Elli (Fr) at 229

EQUESTRIANISM PARSS: Prix Des Ecoliers 1 Amoros Rovillon (H. Godignon Fr) 0 fautien 29.325cc 2 Variati Valuey Weltsom (J. Whitalor, GB) 0 in 30.63; 3, Aprince du Marais (P. Delavalati, Fr) 0 in 32.12 FOOTBALL

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: England 4 Germaty 6 (in Protion) Australia 0 United States 4 (in Melbourne)

ICE HOCKEY

ROWING

CAMBRIDGE: University Lant races: Nert First division: 1st & 3rd Timity bod Causs, LMBC bod Christ & Churchill bed Queers. Fizvaliam bod Emmanuel, Selvyn bod Sidney Sussex. Second divisions. Petrohouse bod Clare, King s bod Downing. B, 1st & 3rd Timity II bod King s II. Queens' II

### Andrew Longmore finds a stand-off half coolly converting the sceptics

## Learning to build on the magic touch

The battering ram is the preferred weapon of assault in modern rugby, as the French will doubtless appreciate this afternoon. Frivolity and the feather duster belong to another era. Thus, the one moment of magic at Lansdowne Road two weeks ago, as England hurled themselves at the Irish gates, was not conjured from the twin tries by Sleightholme and Underwood, the deft late breaks of Guscott nor the awesome spadework of Rodber, but a botched piece of first-half flippancy that makes Paul Grayson hang his head in shame.

The sin, for such it is in these formulaic days, was a behindthe-back pass five yards from the ireland line that surprised



everyone in the stadium, in cluding de Glanville, the recipient, who dropped it, and Sleightholme, the winger, who was at full throttle on the outside. It was as if Ivan Lendl had served underarm on match point. In the commentary box, Rob Andrew rubbed his eyes in disbelief.

"In training, I had been working on a move with Tim Stimpson which involved a late call and me leaving the said. "Mark Regan called for reacted in that split second. Of course, everyone said, 'What was that?" but it was subconscious." Some stick from the coach? "Yes. It was a chance and, against the French, we might only get one."

Because he was a regular in the last five nations championship, guiding England to the title with sure boot and steady mind, Grayson seems more experienced than he really is. He says he is not an international stand-off half yet, though 118 points in six



Grayson has many more international goals in his sights as he prepares to kick for England against France at Twickenham this afternoon

esty. Tactically, he has much to learn, but there is a neatness about Grayson that is reminiscent of Michael Lynagh.

Off the field, he runs a promotions company with Matt Dawson, his team-mate and the Northampton scrumhalf, and works as a part-time insurance broker. On it, with shorts and hair equally creased, the gentle parabola of his touch kicks, the unruffled place-kicking, the influence of the Australian is marked. "He's got everything and he makes very few mistakes,"

Grayson said of Lynagh. Like Lynagh, Grayson's strength is his kicking, developed in the midfield for Accrington Stanley as a teenager and at Waterloo, when he chose rugby over football. He is blessed with the natural timing of a born sportsman -

the confidence of someone who knows where he and the ball are going.

No anxious fiddling, just place, retreat and whack. It has looked like that ever since Grayson emerged with some credit from a narrow defeat by France in the Parc des Princes on his five nations' debut.

Grayson gives off a calm confidence that rarely spills over into cockiness. Jack Rowell, the England coach, certainly trusted the Lancastrian's big-match temperament enough to bring him back for the real stuff when the pre-Christmas dalliance with Mike Catt had ended.

Many were baffled why such a precious period of development had been denied him in the first place. From being third-choice No 10 at the start of the season, behind Catt Grayson is in "pole position", Rowell says, to take England into the World Cup, when he will be 27, and a strong candidate for the British Isles tour this summer.

rayson says: "I'm more comfortable with the environment now. In my first games last year, half my mind was taken up by all the extra bits and pieces, the crowd atmosphere, the media attention, the national anthems. I can put those to the back of my mind now. It's easier because I'm more aware of what's required and more confident, but harder because more is expected of you.

"I'm not an international flyhalf yet, but I'm learning with each game. There are improvements to be made in

and physical development, but I'm happy with the way it's

going."
Picking his words with the care of his passes, Grayson is acutely aware that more is expected of England, despite their two record-breaking victories. You sense that, like Rowell's England, Grayson himself is trying to balance structure with flair, fuse his love of the unexpected with that Lynagh-like erasure of

"Ireland was a pretty easy game. We put the ball behind them for 20 minutes to keep the crowd quiet. Had we scored that try - when, but for my minor indiscretion, 'Sleights' should have scored things might have been different. For short periods, we put some fairly exciting stuff together against the Scots and

something to work on. We think we're capable of playing that way from the first minute. But we're still a million miles away from being a good side."
The French will certainly be

more ruthless foes. "Miss a kick and they've made 60 yards and you're not quite sure how they've done it. They do things at such incredible pace, backs and forwards. If they start enjoying themselves, they'll tear you apart.

We have to play the pressure game, make sure that every time they get the ball, they get clattered. That's how England have done it in the past: squeeze them until they lose their tempers." Not much room for fancy-dan passes in that game plan, then. Grayson seems undeterred. "I quite like to try these things," he said. "It's something in me." Long Scotland aim to arrest swift decline

HOW fickle international rugby can be. A year ago Scotland stood one step from a grand. slam after a season in which they had exceeded all expectations. Twelve months on and defeat by Ireland at Murrayfield today will almost certainly mean that the Scots finish bottom in the five nations championship after a first fully professional season that has emphasised the widening gulf between the home countries.

It has been an alarming reversal of fortune, with only one win, against Italy, in the defeats at the hands of Wales and England. Such depressing statistics have led to an erosion of confidence, with questions being asked about the direction that the game is taking north of the border.

Self-esteem will be restored only partially by victory against Ireland, who have not won in Edinburgh since 1985. Scotland have set their sights much higher but have lost their way, caught between attempting a more fluid game and maintaining the core principles that saw them through the relatively golden period of the 1980s and early 1990s.

Richie Dixon, the coach, is adamant that Scotland have to change with the times, and that his vision, shared by David Johnston, the backs coach, will prove the correct one in the long term. "People have to accept that we will get the odd bloody nose," Dixon said. "I hate losing, we all hate losing, but we will have these results. As long as they don't happen too often, it's not a big problem."

Scotland, and Ireland for that matter, have in the past relied heavily on passion and courage. In many ways they face similar difficulties in that they have only limited playing resources, and relatively limited financial resources. Of the players who fit the bill, many have moved to England. Eight of the Irish and seven of the Scots who start today, including five of the Scottish pack, ply their trade in the Courage Clubs Championship. From a Scotland standpoint, it has led to a dilution of what Jim Telfer, their former manager,

calls "our Scottishness". "We have to get back to being Scottish, playing the rucking game which served us well. We're not Scottish any more," Telfer, now the Scottish Rugby Union's director of rugby, said. "We are expected to win our home games. Scotland are judged on the world stage on how we do against the big countries, so if we don't win against Ireland. we can safely say we are really in trouble."

ppropri

That would be doing Ireland a disservice. Under Brian Ashton, who this week signed a six-year contract with the Irish Rugby Football Union. the team has been making some progress, punctuated by the thrashing at the hands of England a fortnight ago. Ire-land will be missing Nick Popplewell and Eric Miller both are injured. They are replaced by Paul Flavin and Ben Cronin, who wins his second cap, two years after his first at Murrayfield.

The Scotland back row, L which has a better balance now that Rob Wainwright and Peter Walton have swapped positions, will look to target Ireland's new half-back pairing of David Humphreys and Brian O'Meara, a scrum half winning his first full cap, and player rated highly by Ashton, who dismisses talk of

a meaningless match. "We have a lot to play for." he said. "If we win, it'll be the first time Ireland have won two games away from home for years. We'll probably finish third, which would be a terrific achievement."

Wainwright takes little comfort from Scotland's recent domination of the Irish. "It's been a shambles of a season for us," he said. "We can resurrect it with a win against Ireland, but we need to exert more control. Although we might want to play with passion, we still have to have some control."

The captain also played down the expectations weighing heavily on Alan Tait, the former rugby league international, who plays his first match for Scotland for nine years. "He is not a messiah." Wainwright said. At the moment, though, that is just what

Min fine



Merle: misunderstood

### Big man, big heart, big trouble for England

French sport in more ways than one. A former shot putter, he stands an intimidating 6ft 6in tall and punishes the scales at a little in excess of 20 stone. Boot size 17. The stubble is as tough as a field of cut corn in late August. But there is more to the man than all that.

He is also the living epitome of vive la différence, that great chasm in culture and philosophy between the two nations that not even boats, planes or Eurostars can bridge. In England. his reputation is sullied by memories of overtly physical play, both real and imagined. The British, saintly folk that we are of course, never ignore any nonsense from Johnny Foreigner, nor do we ever stoop to such acts

Merle's assault upon Ricky Evans. the Wales prop, in Paris two years ago. which may be the subject of a court case later this year, was certainly a less than glorious deed. But, if you believe that Merle is the only international rugby forward who has ever attacked

In livier Merle is a giant of Peter Bills meets Olivier Merle, a France forward Africa and I am seconded to it to deal

who is relishing the challenge of Twickenham

an opponent, then you probably subscribe to the theory that the moon is made of blue chees

French suspicions of hypocrisy within the English press were confirmed in their own Paris training camp this week, when the cameras arrived for a special film session. Merle's scepticism of the English media was to prove well founded:

There were journalists from the English television station and they asked me to hold a magazine. On the cover was an English rugby player and they wanted me to tear up the picture. I refused," he said. "They didn't want to talk about rugby at all, just provoke trouble. But rugby is a sport; it is not their place to do things like that. It must be stopped.

"I see the mentality of certain English journalists who take a sick.

with young people," Merle said. "I was part of an operation to help the young people of Soweto around the time of the World Cup. I met a

priest, Emanuel Lafond, a French malevolent pleasure in firing bullets missioner, and talked with him. When constantly at the same players, both I returned to France, I thought it would be good to do something for him and his projects with these kids. during tournaments and just before a The constrast between the British So I put in place a project whereby we perception of Merle and the French, collect for them: clothes, medicines, could not be greater; honourable, money - and we can fund projects to help the kids in the slums." decent men, such as Jean-Claude Skreia and Pierre Villepreux, the

What appeals to him about the family of rugby, he says, is the camaraderie, the solidarity, the wish to have the same objectives as your teammates. But what of that reputation? "I don't know what people think of me," he said. "When I go on the field, it is to play rugby. It is a contact sport and I think it is completely ridiculous to pick

on certain players. "The English team is very brave with many qualities, very tenacious. But the present French team is capable of doing great things in the future."

### MURRAYFIE D TEAMS

### **SCOTLAND**

R J S Shepherd (Melrose) A G Stanger (Hawick) G P J Townsend (Northampton)

K M Locan (Stirling County) C M Chalmers (Melrose) B W Redpath (Melrose) T J Smith (Watsonians) D G Effis (Currie)

M J Stewart (Northampton) R I Wainwright (Watsonians/Army) G W Weir (Newcastle) A I Reed (Wasps) I R Smith (Moselev)

P Walton (Newcastle) ree: G Simmonds (Wales) REPLACEMENTS: 16 I C Glasgow (Hertot's FP), 17 D W Hodge (Watsonians), 18 G Armstrong (Newcastle), 19 D F Cronin (Wasps), 20 D I W Hilton (Bath), 21 S J Brotherstone (Metrose).

### **IRELAND**

15 J E Staples (Hartequins)\*

14 D A Hickie (St Mary's College)

13 M J Field (Malone) 12 K P McQuilkin (Lansdowne

11 J C Bell (Northemotors) 10 D G Humphreys (London Irish)

B T O'Meara (Cork Const) P Flavin (Blackrock College) R P Nesdale (Newcastle)

P S Wallace (Saracens) D S Corkery (Bristol)

P S Johns (Saracens) J W Davidson (London Irish) W D McBride (Malone)

B M Cronin (Garryowen)

BBC1: 5.0pm (highlights) REPLACEMENTS: 16 C M P O'Shee (London Irish), 17 P A Burke (Bristol), 18 S C Mictvor (Gerryowen), 19 G M Fulcher (London Irish), 20 G L Walsh (Northampton), 21 A T H Clarke (Northampton).

### Timely interception gives spoils to Ireland

Ireland A ..... By MARK SOUSTER

THIS match, at Myreside yesterday, was won in dramatic style in the final minute by Ireland through a converted try by Niall Woods. With Ireland trailing 33-27, he intera cepted a pass by Donaldson

and scored under the posts.



Lynch's conversion secured victory.

Scotland overcame a 20-7 deficit to hold a commanding position entering the final 15 minutes. They had been rattled by a fiery opening by Ireland, for whom Hogan and Clarke scored tries. Gradually the Scotland forwards assert-ed themselves and Cammy Murray went over for a try.

Ireland, though, went further ahead when Lynch added a penalty goal, followed by Woods's first try. Scotland then turned the game on its head with tries by Kerr and Murray. An opportunist score by Halvey regained the advantage for Ireland, only for Eriksson to score twice; then Woods stepped in.

WOOds stepped in.

SCORERS: Scotland & Tries: C Murray
(2). Eriksoon (2). Ker. Conversions:
Donaktson (4) Irrisand & Tries: Woods (2).
Hogan. Carke. Hatey Conversions:
Lynch (3) Penalty goal: Lynch
SCOTLAND A: D Lee (Watsonsers): J
Graig (West of Scotland). C Murray
(Hawkch). R Eriksson (London Scotlash). J
Kerr (Watsonians): A Donaktson (Cump).
G Burns (Watsonians): P Wright (Melrose).
G Bulloch (Viest of Scotland). S Finguson
(Peccibes). S Reid (Boroughmain). S Murray
(Bedlond). S Granes (Watsonians). S
Holmes (London Scotlash). C Hogg (Melrose, captarn).

Holmes (Lunum.
1096. Captam).
IRELAND A: C Clarke (Terenuse College).
D Crotity (Garyowen). B Carey (Blacknock College). M Lynch (Young Munster). N Woods (London Insh) R Governey (Larsdowne). N Hogen (Terenuse College).
H Hurley (Moceley). M McDemot Hurley (Moceley). M McDemot Captam).
A McCleer

### BASKETBALL

### Final reckoning for Chester

By Nicholas Harling

OVER Mike Burton's dead body would Chester Jets fill their team with Americans. Maybe i said that, maybe ! didn't," the coach said recently, "but even if I didn't, I must admit that was the intention."

Well, Burton did say that, not once but often, during the years when the Jets languished at the foot of the Budweiser League. "Third from bottom was our best position," he said. The genial 49-vear-old stubbornly refused to change his policy until long after people had given up on him and the club.

Then his rebellious streak eased and Americans were recruited. The consequence has been remarkable. The Jets have become not only title contenders but cup finalists for the first time. Tomorrow night, at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. the club will dispute the 7-Up Trophy with London Towers,

No matter how laudable were Burton's efforts to develop English players - many of them from Ellesmere Port Catholic School where he teaches PE and maths -- they were never going to win honours or play to packed

conscience stricken or guilty that we've changed things around," he said. "Now, at last, we're competing but if there are any English players out there who are better than the players I've got, I would take them." Even when Burton first brought in a couple of Americans anathy remained so rife

match. I find that very disturbing."

France coaching team, speak warmly

Villepreux said. "He is shy, not really

somebody who wants to be in the

limelight. And he is not a dirty player.

Le vrai Merle, say the French, is a

polite, fascinating character who

spends long hours working to try to

improve the life of deprived children.

"My department (Puy-de-Dôme) col-laborates with an association in South

At club level he has no problems.

"Olivier is a really nice man,"

of the powerful Montferrand player.

that barely 150 spectators turned up to watch the Towers at the Northgate Arena last Yet, this season the arena is full for every game. With all respect to Matt Meakin, the

only English player to figure on a regular basis, he is not the one they come to watch.



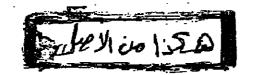
The main attractions are Billy Singleton and Ricardo Leonard, two Americans who are flanked by two exciting compatriots, Hilary Scott and Nigel Palmer. Behind them is Russ Saunders, the Budweiser League's all-time leading scorer, who has acquired a British passport through marriage. The influx of Americans has

not, happily, come at the expense of Chester losing their charm or family image. Burton's family are avid followers of the team, but whether their support will be enough to help the Jets to recover from a poor run in the league that has cost them the leadership is another matter.

The last thing they needed was a further league fixture at Worthing Bears last night while the Towers have had a free week. Burton knows that his old pal Kevin Cadle, the Towers coach, will not be slow to utilise that opportunity. Burton was Cadle's assis-

tant with the national team. "He's the most successful coach the country has ever had," Burton said. "He's an outstanding motivator and I've learnt much from him." Perhaps not quite enough to make Burton a winner at Cadle's expense just yet.





### Atherton eager to prolong his captain's innings

From Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, in auckland

VICTORY and personal limit is so short," he said. "At affect the way I captained the achievement will count for nothing when Michael Atherton boards a flight home next week, for officially he will no onger be captain of England. His time will be up, his appointed period exhausted and, theoretically at least, the customary speculation about his job could persist for weeks

Atherton, who has consciously kept his deeper thoughts strictly private on this tour, would now like two things to be known. He very much wants to continue in charge, not only for the summer Ashes series, but well beyond it if form and loyalty are favourable. Secondly, he believes a solution can and must be found to the perennial, unhealthy attention on the

Yesterday Atherton could speak from a position of strength. He has won on tour. which is rare enough for England but all the more laudable considering the despondency of two months ago. His team is unequivocally devoted to him, and his batting has been restored to its poised, serene, bloody-minded

Until now, he has declined to speak of his future, knowing how fickle the fates of this tour have been. But the relish in his voice as he contemplates the challenges to come is as unmistakable as the frustration that, technically, he is in no position to plan for them. He must wait for the installation of a new chairman of selectors. later this month, before being told he can proceed.

The question of the captaincy is always just around

the end of each tour, we don't have a captain until a new appointment is made. There are times when I find this irritating and the constant questioning about it is a help

side or to get through to the

players. It stood me in good

stead, made me stronger for

the knowledge that I could

That strength has been ap-

parent in New Zealand, where

Atherton's leadership has

been tactically and psychologi-

cally more confident than

before. Although still only 28,

his demonstrable seniority

has lent him a presence

among his players that only a minority of captains attain.

had a good grasp of situations

here, largely through my con-fidence in the bowlers. Having

two spinners of top quality

gives me control and it dates

back to the decision that Alec

Stewart must keep wicket. A

lot of people disagreed with it.

but it enabled us to play our

best five bowlers and was the

Equally important, how-ever, was Atherton's return to

batting form, for which Eng-

land are indebted to their

captain's private, sweatshop

regime in a cramped indoor

net in Hamilton. "As usual, there was no problem know-

ing what was wrong with my

game, it was knowing how to

put it right. It was only when I

had two four-hour sessions against a bowling machine in

that school, the physio feeding in the balls and the door shut

against anyone inquisitive.

In Christchurch, two weeks

ago. Atherton realised the

worth of that work by batting,

in his cocooned, self-contained

that I worked it all out.

key to the entire winter."

He knows it, too. "I have

to nobody. "In my view, they should just appoint a captain and tell him to get on with it until ther he resigns or is sacked. If he is making a mess of it. obviously he must go, but there would be greater flexibility on both sides."

There is no chance of Atherton being dismissed now, but he candidly admits it might have been different. "The way the Zimbabwe leg ended for us meant I had to face certain possibilities. If we had not won in New Zealand, if things had continued as they were. I couldn't have gone on. The position would have been untenable and I would have resigned. I'd have had no choice. I'm sure."

Paradoxically, he believes the Zimbabwe experience was good for him. "I was going through a personal struggle, badly short of runs and form. but I never allowed that to



### Cronje passes stern test in fine style

By Our Sports Staff

JOHANNESBURG (first day of five. South Africa won toss): South Africa have scored 302 runs against Australia

HANSIE CRONJE had said Wanderers yesterday that South Africa were about to test themselves against the world's hest and, by lunch, he was probably wondering if it was on examination that was beyond them. After 29 troubled overs, he was at the crease, much earlier than he had hoped, surveying the wreckage of the top order of South Africa's batting line-up, re-duced to 58 for three, and defying a seemingly rampant

tran

othe

Australian attack. In the event, Cronje rose to the occasion with a captain's innings in the linest tradition. scoring 76 while those around bim fell. It took the arrival of Dave Richardson, the wicketkeeper, to complete the recovery as he made an unbeaten 72 while masterminding the addition of 107 runs for the fall of the last two wickets. Ultimately, a score of 302 all out represented a satisfactory day's work.

SNOOKER

Wattana

enjoys

the first Test was Glenn McGrath, who lived up to his statistical ranking as the world's No i bowler with a ball of three wickets for ten runs in ten overs. He exploited overcast morning conditions to dismiss Andrew Hudson for a duck, Gary Kirsten for nine and Jacques Kallis for six and then came back after lunch to get rid of Daryll Cullinan for 27. McGrath finished with four for 77 from

The biggest thorn in South Africa's side on the first day of

SOUTH AFRICA: First Intung SOUTH APRICAL First Intangs
A C Hustson o Healy to McGrath
G Husten o Healy to McGrath
J H Nahis o M E Waugh to McGrath
D J Cultimator o Healy to McGrath
"W J Crempo o M E Waugh to Waine
I N Rhados o Healy to Gillesone
S M Poulació o S R Waugh to Bevan
L Musener of Taylor to Bevan
D J Richardson not out
A A Don tid o Healy to Gillesone
F R Alburts bas to Gillesone
F R Alburts bas to Waine
Syring by 1, the 3 w 3, no 5) ಕಣಜಾಚರಿಗೆ ಕಾರ್ತಿಯಾಗಿ

Total 302
FALL OF MICKETS 140 215 375 478
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S BONGER S D MICKETS
BY GANGE S D MICKETS
BY GANG

SAILING

### Crews prepare for greatest challenge

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

lucky break STEPHEN HENDRY'S run of 14 matches unbeaten in world ranking events came to an end in Valletta yesterday when against all expecta-tions, he was beaten 5-2 by James Wattana in the quarterfinals of the European Open (Phil Yales Wittes).

Wattana, successful in only three of his 17 meetings with the world champion, overcame Hendry for the first time since the 1994 British Open. despite the fact that he was using a borrowed cue.

Having broken his own cue only two days before travelling to the tournament. Wattana gave himself little chance of success but, employ-ing the substitute — a longer. maple one-piece model - he has struck form.

Wattana, who has not figured in the semi-finals of a ranking competition since capturing the Thailand Open title on home soil two years ago, will play John Higgins over the best of II frames today for a place in the final

CHAY BLYTH has a reput-ation for telling it like it is, and unplanned rig re-fit for all 14 boats in Wellington, the vesterday he made no attempt shorter stopover in Sydney to romanticise the return to has seen little work. However, the Southern Ocean that his with the mystery over strand BT Global Challenge volunfailures still unsolved, the teers face when they set off on routine rigging checklist isthe fourth leg of the race tomorrow, taking them from sued to the skippers has now been made longer and more Sydney to Cape Town. thorough. The rigging loads It is a distance of about have all been measured in n,200 miles, crossing the Sydney and will be checked

southern Indian Ocean, where so many of the Vendée Globe skippers either recently sulfered damage, or worse. The course is largely unrestricted save for a waypoint northeast of the Kerguelen Islands, which the fleet must leave to port so as to avoid going too far into iceberg territory. Addressing the crews at his customary pre-start briefing.

at the Austrulian National nothing to undermine his grip Maritime Museum, Blyth told on proceedings. them that he was sure they would be able to cope with the rigours of the fourth leg. After all," he reasoned, "you've come halfway round the world already." After the substantial and

plight that Keighley Cougars and Hull Kingston Rovers are now in, with both being run by administrators, is that they are potential candidates for the one promotion place to the Super League next season. Huddersfield, Hull and Featherstone Rovers, who are at home to Hull KR in the pick of the opening matches in the first division, are also among the favourites. dresses the complaint made last year - that there were too few matches - by guarantee ing clubs a minimum of 14

again when the boots arrive in Cape Town, in early April. With three long legs still to sail - including the Cape Town to Boston stretch with the lottery of the Doldrums to be negotiated — it is too early to pick an overall winner. But. with two leg wins under his helt and a strong second in the third-leg sprint, Mike Golding, on Group 4, has done

Meanwhile, in the Vendee Globe, Eric Dumont, of France, on Cafe Legal Le Gout, was due to arrive at the finish, at Les Sables d'Olonne. in Britanny, last night to take fourth place overall.



Langer plays his second to the 9th in a consolidatory second round of 70 yesterday

### Hospital nurses rare lead

From John Hopkins, golf correspondent, in dubai

WHAT with the operation to remove fluid from David Carter's brain on Tuesday, all the talk of José Maria Olazabal's feet, and Thomas Bjorn's stiff neck, which caused him to withdraw yesterday, it is appropriate that the man who leads the Dubai Desert Classic after two rounds should be Domingo Hospital. Bespectacled, owlish almost, and certainly unconventional, Hospital had a 69 to reach ten under par, two strokes ahead of Bernhard Langer and Ian Woosnam.

way, for more than 12 hours. The win settled the series and In an age of specialisation, secured his position, but he Hospital is a refreshing exceprecalled: "I never allowed mytion. His parents forbade him from turning professional when he was 17 and he was self to think about the job. My only thought was winning the game. The captaincy can be a difficult thing to carry around sent to university to study economics instead. He got if you allow it to burden everything you do." married the day before his finals and so did not complete The "torture" of watching his degree. Then he took to the final session of that game, flying. He was 24 before he turned pro and 34 when he once he was finally out, rebecame the European Tour's mains vividly with him. "I sat in the shower for half an hour,

oldest rookie in 1993.

cooling down, and Phil Tufnell twice poked his head Whereas his first round, a in to say we'd lost another wicket. He looked terrible, **RUGBY LEAGUE** ridden with anxiety, and I didn't want to come out and Weakest you are out there batting, your clubs face

struggle to

survive

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AFTER a shortened regular

season, which starts tomorrow

and ends on July 20, the 11 first

division sides and the top nine

teams from the second divi-

sion will play off in an extended divisional Premier-

ship competition, culminating

in a final at Old Trafford in

The new first and second

division clubs' association

hopes to have sponsors in

place shortly and is looking to appoint a general manager. Since the 12 Super League

clubs are now marketing themselves under the umbrella Rugby League (Europe)

organisation, the lower divi-

sion clubs must work together. An irony of the financial

The restructured season ad-

home games. In the divisional

Premiership, sides will be split

into four groups of five, based on their final league positions.

and will play each other twice.

The top two from each group

then enter a knockout phase.

The bottom two finishers in

the second division will be

excluded from the divisional

Premiership and will struggle

to survive on a season lasting

The Australasian Super

League finally gets under way

today after two years of legal

bantles. Brishane Broncos and

Auckland Warriors meet to

open the ten-team competi-

tion, which has a six-day head

start on its rival, the 12-team

Australian Rughy League

(ARL) Premiership.

4½ months.

late September.

destiny in your own hands." There is animation in the captain's eyes when he speaks of the Australian series. "I think they are more vulnerable now than at any time in my career. They've lost several senior players and they are not as settled and experienced as they were. I've lost against them too often for peace of mind and it's high time we won back the Ashes."

That Atherton will lead the campaign is not in doubt. He looks forward to it keenly and is now willing to cast still further ahead. "I don't leel a burden from the job. I'm enjoying it now and I like the set-up we have. If there was a time when the players' sup-port for me would be tested it was in Zimbabwe and I'm grateful they didn't waver. So long as the team maintains that faith. I would like to

65, contained an appropriate number of good shots, his second, a 69, was built on the frail foundations of fantastic scrambling. He missed fairways to the left and to the right, and he missed many greens, but always his short game saved him. He chipped and one-putted at least five times and chipped and no-putted on the 13th for an eagle

"To win would be a dream," Hospital said, "but I don't think I can do it. I have led after one round but never

from 20 feet.

how you will react to a new situation." A fierce wind blew all day and the sight of the best players struggling to get home on long par fours made a welcome change from them reaching every par four with a drive and mid-iron. More

after two. You never know

long-irons were played in one round yesterday than normally in four. Greg Norman, for example

used a three-iron for his second shot on both the 8th and 9th, two strong holes on a strong course. Both shots were struck majestically and the ensuing birdies from 18 and 20 feet were no less than he deserved. "Six beautiful shots," he said, after a 68.

"Better players do well in a wind because they can play a greater variety of shots," Woosnam, who had the day's lowest round of 67, said. "On a calm day, too much is down to putting. I like to move the ball from side to side."

A sad exception to this was Severiano Ballesteros, who had an 84, the highest score by a professional. In his past three tournaments, Ballesteros has finished 147th out of 160, 133rd out of 158 and, this week, 127th out of 131. Perhaps it is time to stop regarding Europe's Ryder Cup captain as one of the better players.

**EQUESTRIANISM** 

### Whitaker beaten by French charge

From Jenny MacArthur

JOHN WHITAKER, who led the British clean sweep at the Bologna International Show last weekend, confirmed his form for the Volvo World Cup qualifier tomorrow when he and Virtual Village Welham finished runners-up to Hervé Godignon, of France, in the Prix des Ecoliers, the opening competition of the three-day World Cup meeting here.

Sixty horses contested the marathon class with 26 having clear rounds. In the jump-off, over a shortened sixfence course, Patrice Delaveau, on Aphnée du Marais, took an early lead roared on by the hordes of schoolchildren who filled the Palais Omnisports in Paris Bercy.

Delaveau's time remained the fastest until Whitaker, the penultimate rider in the class. entered the ring on Welham. The former European champion produced a faultless round that looked so unhurried that even the commentator paused before announcing that he had cut 1.44sec off the French-

But Whitaker's lead was shortlived. Godignon, who admits to having little control of his wild French gelding, Amoros Revillon, stormed round the six fences, finishing 36sec ahead of Whitaker.

Geoff Billington, who advised Whitaker on his route for the jump-off, summed up the difference between the two rounds. "Welham doesn't know he's been against the clock but Godignon's horse does." he said.

Whitaker's younger broth-er, Michael, the only other Briton in the jump-off, had an untypical 21 faults on Ashley. while Nick Skelton incurred four faults on Zalza. Billington's young horse, Niko, whose eyes were out on stalks when he came into the arena and heard the din, had eight faults. Robert Smith confirmed the form of his exciting new prospect, Big Time, with a beautifully executed clear round - but 1.75sec in time faults kept them out of the jump-off.

Results, page 53

IN BRIEF

### Henman's conqueror goes out to **Prinosil**

DAVID PRINOSIL of Germany, beat Petr Korda, of the Czech Republic, 4-6, 7-6, 6-3 yesterday to move into the semi-finals of the Italian indoor tennis championships in Milan. Korda had beaten Tim Henman, the Great Britain

No L on Thursday. Prinosil will meet Goran lvanisevic in the semi-finals. Greg Rusedski, the Great Britain No 2, still suffering with a wrist injury, has pulled out of the ATP Tour event in Rotterdam next week.

☐ Hockey: Jason Lasiett returns from holiday to rein force Teddington, who need to beat Reading and Cannock in their final two matches to take the National League title. In the first division, Beeston will clinch the title if they beat City of Portsmouth at home

☐ Rugby union: Wales have called up Allan Bateman and Nigel Walker for the World Cup Sevens in Hong Kong next month. They have been added to the party of players who helped Wales to qualify at the tournament in Dubai in

☐ Boxing: Shea Neary, of Liverpool, makes the first defence of his World Boxing Union light-welterweight title against Jeremah Malinga, of South Africa, at Everton Park Leisure Centre, Liverpool, tonight. Neary is unbeaten and has the potential to be the best

🛘 Squash: Simon Parke, of Yorkshire, was announced as the new England No 1 for the first time and the world No 4. with the publication of the Professional Squash Associ-ation ranking list.

☐ Fencing: Quentin Ber-riman, the British champion for the past two years, leads the home challenge in the British round of the men's epée World Cup this weekend at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow.

□ Rowing: Downing maintained a comfortable lead of five lengths from Trinity Hall. their new challengers, at the finish of the Cambridge University Lent races vesterday.

### A TIMES NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

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You can switch your fantasy team after each grand prix. Full details of the scoring system and the terms and conditions appeared in the 20-page Grand Prix supplement. free with Monday's Times. You can also play Fantasy Formula One with The Sunday Times for the chance to win additional prizes.



THE PRIZES

JACKPOT: The manager with the best team score on our Fantasy Formula One leaderboard after the final race of the season, the European Grand Prix at Estoril, Portugal, on October 26, will win £25,000. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up. INDIVIDUAL RACE WINNERS: The manager of the

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Follow the instructions on the entry line. You will be asked to nominate your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st. 2nd and 3rd finishing places for

the grands prix where bonus points apply.

You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name, your own name, address, postcode and daynine telephone number. You will receive a 10-digit PIN number as confirmation of your entry. Please keep a record of this

MAKE 3 SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THESE FOUR GROUPS 61 Damon Hilf

02 Michael Schumacher 03 Jacques Villeneuve **04** Eddie Irvine 05 Jean Alesi

06 Gerhard Berger

13 Olivier Panis 14 Jos \'erstappen 15 Ukyo Katayama 16 Pedro Diniz

17 Ricardo Rosset 18 Ralf Schumacher CONSTRUCTORS GROUP C

25 Williams 26 Ferrari

27 McLarer 28 Benetton 29 Jordan

30 Ligier

19 Giancario Fisichella 20 Shinji Nakano 21 Nicola Larini 22 Jamo Trulli 23 Jan Magnussen 24 Vincenzo Sospiri

07 Mika Hakkinen

**08** David Coulthard

11 Johnny Herbert

12 Mika Salo

09 Rubens Barrichello

10 Heinz-Harald Frentzen

CONSTRUCTORS GROUP D 31 Arrows 32 Sauber

33 Tyrreli 34 Minardi 35 Stewart 36 Lola

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CHANGING TIMES



# SP()RT

GOLF 55 Langer forced to play second fiddle to Hospital



SATURDAY MARCH 1 1997

Inexperienced side may struggle to end France's poor record at Twickenham

# England rely on home security

By David Hands RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

TEN weeks ago few were prepared to bet that England's meeting with France might prove the conclusive match of rugby union's five nations' championship this season. Wales may yet have the final say in a formight's time, but the winner at Twickenham today will have one hand on the championship trophy and can challenge for a grand slam when the tournament ends on March 15.

How much has changed for England since the jeers which greeted their display against Argentina in December. How well the French have propped up a side beaten by South Africa before Christmas and traumatised by the loss of so



RESULTS: Ireland 15 France 32: Scotland 19 Wales 34: England 41 Scotland 13. Wales 25 Ireland 26. France 27 Wales 22: yland 6 Englang 46. IATCHES TO COME: Today: England v rance, Scotland v treland March 15: ™ss v Scotland. Wales v England

many experienced players, either through injury or through transfer to greener financial pastures in England.

But the fascination of this Save and Prosper international lies in the weaknesses of the respective teams as much as their strengths. Neither England nor France have developed sufficiently to be called an established unit; their vulnerability has been clear to all. Neither Scotland nor Ireland. however, were talented enough to take advantage of England's imprecisions, while Ireland and Wales threatened France, but could not break

Yet knowledgeable Frenchmen are gloomy about their prospects. Even Abdelatif Benazzi. the France captain, gives his team a mere 30 per cent chance of beating England and lapses instead into the theme of development for the 1999 World Cup. Certainly France are entitled to wonder whether the loss of a complete threequarter line, two firstchoice locks and a couple of class flankers can be overcome against the country which has been their arch-rival over the



The England players are put through their paces at Twickenham yesterday on the eve of the five nations' championship match against France. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Twickenham since 1987, when Philippe Sella was in his pomp, though successive victories over England, in Pretoria in 1995 and Paris last year, have served to reverse a losing trend. Only Benazzi. Jean-Luc Sadourny and Christian Califano have played there in the championship, so the atmosphere will be different, even for those who have played many times at the Parc des Princes.

There is another unknown quantity to France: four of their backs went through the mincer while playing for Brive against Auckland last weekend, a draining exercise in constant defence and mental agility. One of the quartet, Alain Penaud, at stand-off half, has been troubled by a chronic ankle injury and will do well to last the match, though it is important to France that he does.

Given a broken field, Penaud can be as elusive a runner as any and England's plans will be to police him well and limit the incursions of Sadourny, particularly down the blind side. At the same this inexperienced French team has been coming to grips with the attacking schemes of Pierre Villepreux. the assistant coach, which, at their best, must be built on the confidence that only winning can establish.

"We made a lot of errors against the Welsh but that was because we were ready to take risks," Jean-Claude Skrela. the France coach, said. "We need to be a little more structured against England and try to stop them playing in our half of the field. We can't afford to miss tackles and lose ball, especially as the English seem to have found a winning blend in their back row, where Richard Hill looks so good."

It is ironic that France must be chosen, would like to should talk of greater structure while England seek the fluidity that is inherent in traditional French play. There has been evidence this season that they can play exciting, intelligent rugby, even though

Grayson sets sights ... Merle's mission Determined Scotland

sustained periods; they have not scored ten tries and 87 points in two matches merely ekeing out, as Phil de Glanville would say, "the hard

They would be comforted, though, if they were sure their lineout was in working order. Indeed, the British Isles selectors, for whom time is rapidly running out before the squad to tour South Africa

see Martin Johnson, Simon Shaw and Tim Rodber on top form after being shaded in that phase by both the Scots and the Irish; that they were is to the credit of opposing coaches, whose plans have included denying England the throw-in as frequently as

England's capacity to grind out victory has seldom been in doubt in recent times but with every try they run in, the selfbelief will grow stronger. This XV has been given time to settle, in the knowledge that there are ready-made replacements breathing down their necks. If England win today, as they should, they can go to Cardiff in a fortnight comparatively relaxed, leaving the Rugby Football Union £2 million better off and looking at a record-breaking season, with

gate receipts approaching E15

TWICKENHAM TEAMS **ENGLAND** 

J M Sleightholme (Bath) W D C Carting (Harlequins) P R de Glanville (Bath)\* P J Grayson (Northampton) A C T Gomarsall (Wasps)

G C Rowntree (Leicester) M P Regan (Bristof) J Leonard (Harlequins) L B N Dallaglio (Wasps) M O Johnson (Leicester)

S D Shaw (Bristol) R A Hitt (Saracens) T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army)

Referee: J M Fleming (Scotland) BBC1: 2.25pm (five) REPLACEMENTS: 16 J C Guscott (Bath), 17 M J Catt (Bath), 18 A Healey (Leicester), 19 B B Clarke (Richmond), 20 D J Garforth (Leicester), 21 P B T Greening (Gloucester).

**FRANCE** 

14 L Leffarnand (Bourgoin 13 C Lamaison (Brive) 12 S Glas (Bourgoin)

11 D Venditti (Brive) 10 A Penaud (Brive) P Carbonneau (Brive) C Califano (Toulouse) M Dalmaso (Agen) F Tournaire (Narbonne)

A Benazzi (Agen)\* O Merle (Montferrand) H Miorin (Toulouse) O Megne (Dax) F Pelous (Dax)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 U Mola (Dax). 17 D Aucagne (Pau), 18 G Accocaberry (Begles-Bordeaux), 19 R Castel (Beziers), 20 J-L Jordana (Toulouse). 21 M de Rougemont

### **Positive** Atherton happy to carry on as captain

FROM ALAN LEE CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN AUCKLAND

MICHAEL ATHERTON yes terday admitted for the first time that he would have resigned as England captain if the winter tour, widely con-demned two months ago, had not been salvaged by victory in New Zealand.

Speaking to The Times on the eve of the penultimate oneday international, which this morning was threatened by steady rain in Auckland, Atherton said: "If we had not won here, if things had gone on as they were, my position would have become untenable. I would have resigned."

Now that his tenure has been reinforced by a 2-0 win in the Test series, and a run of three unbeaten one-day matches, Atherton confirmed that he wants to go on in the iob he has held for almost four years. He is certain to be reappointed when a new chairman of selectors is named later this month.

It is an abiding ambition to captain an England series win over Australia, the touring team this summer, and Atherion, who has the overwhelming support of his players, is now even inclined to look further ahead. "So long as the team retain that faith, I would like to go on," he said. He would break the record

number of Tests captained by an Englishman, at present 41 by Peter May, in the second Test against Australia, at Lord's, in June. And, on the day when Australia failed to capitalise on early superiority

Eager Atherton Tailend recovery

over South Africa at the start of another high-profile series. Atherton was making encouraging noises about England's chances. Australia, he said. "are more vulnerable than at any time in my career".

Still only 28, Atherton returns home this week to a benefit year with Lancashire. feeling that, for the first time in his years in charge. England have a settled Test side with which to start a summer. "It's amazing how quickly the mood has changed this winter," he said. "It has left me feeling very positive about the future."

England yesterday agreed to allow players' wives and girlfriends on tour next winter after releasing details of an extended trip to the West Indies. Instead of following normal practice and arriving a week before their first under-23s on January 16. England plan to arrive in Antigua on January 3 — giving them a fortnight to acclimatise.

David Lloyd, the England coach, wants to avoid being caught cold by a lack of match practice, as was the case on the trip to Zimbabwe this winter. when England lost their opening two matches, against a powerful President's XI and Mashonaland.

"It will be a period of acclimatisation, practice, fitness and some matches among ourselves," Lloyd said. "Before Zimbabwe, we did everything I wanted in Portugal in terms of fitness and assessment, but, when we got out there without having had any actual cricket practice. Zimbabwe hit us hard and

early."
The five match Test series is completed in Antigua on Tuesday, March 24. This will be followed by five one-day inter-Guppy move, page 53 | nationals, starting in Barba-Face of Football, page 53 | dos on Sunday, March 29.

# Coppell goes in to bat again on sticky wicket

tal Palace, is like a fly returning to the flypaper, knowing that the sticky stuff can be injurious to health.

Perhaps we should no longer be surprised at anything in the hireand-fire nonsense of football management. Coppell himself, a former England player with a degree in economics, said: "It is an intuitive. instinctive game. If you start thinking about it, you can be lost."
Yet, the announcement yesterday

that he was to start his third employment under Ron Noades, the Palace chairman, did surprise football, not least because Coppell had departed from Manchester City in November after 33 days' employment, apparently afraid that the tensions and demands of the post would make him ill.

He admitted yesterday that it

Triangle, with himself replacing Dave Bassett, and Bassett moving on to Nottingham Forest, effectively replacing Frank Clark, who took the Manchester City reins from

The Bermuda Triangle? Surely Coppell, intelligent man that he is, is aware that people who enter that reputedly disappear without trace. I was not actively doing anything other than scouting for Palace when the offer came," Coppell said. "I could just not refuse it, it was blue chip as far as I am concerned."

Well, it is apparent that only supporters, those who, even in the television age, pay to keep the clubs afloat, are expected to show loyalty. Coppell spoke of a bond, of a return to an environment in which he and the club had known their most

Rob Hughes on the manager who yesterday returned for the second time to Crystal Palace

There were no explanations of why he felt mentally able to re-enter the managerial waters, which he does, initially, from now until the end of the season. Coppell had been praised, last November, as a relatively young man showing unusual courage in owning up to his own apparent unsuitability to the strains of management. Now, it appears, those strains were peculiar to Manchester City, of whom he said: Twenty-five thousand people turning up to watch the grass grow you cannot go wrong.

And on the Crystal Palace Clubcall line, Noades yesterday gave his view on Coppell's defection from Maine Road. "I don't think his

departure was down to ill-health," the Palace chairman said. "I think that was just something Manchester City put out." That comment brought demands for apology from City last night. Asked Coppell's mental state was of concern, Noades said: "I think that is totally insignificant, not even worthy of consideration."

Perhaps Palace fans should at least give thanks that, this time, there seems no intention to remove the coaching staff, the mania that happens with managerial changes elsewhere. They may, however, fear that Coppell, so articulate and outwardly so composed, had earlier resigned from their club, saying he

was then haunted by "some very bad decisions I made". A complex man. Coppell. Between management, he contributed incisive commentaries to Radio 5Live. He was one of the three key figures on the Premier League inquiry that condenined George Graham for the Arsenal "bung" affair, and also acted as chief executive of the League Managers' Association. The moral duty to stand up and be counted against unethical methods of management, never fazed him.

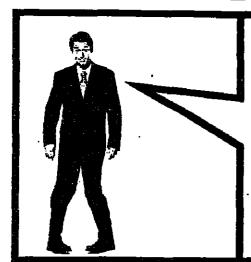
There are those who will conclude that Coppell's real reason for scurrying away from Manchester City was the reluctance of Francis Lee, the chairman, to provide money for new players.

Meanwhile, at Nottingham For-

est, Bassett's appointment, ostensibly to take the managerial pressures off Stuart Pearce, may have a become clear after the match against Tottenham Hotspur today. Forest travel to White Hart Lane with Pearce as player-manager. Bassett as general manager. However, honest Pearce, said yesterday: "I said all along that management is something I want to do in the future. But it's come too soon for me at Forest. Dave has been brought in to help out on the footballing side because of my inexperience.

By Monday, Pearce could be a player again, revelling in the release from managerial pressures". And Coppell? As it used to be said of Bobby Robson, despite his enduring and successful career, "his

Newcastie float, page 29

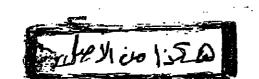


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SATURDAY MARCH 1 1997



chieftains will be flicking nervously through his memoirs in the coming days to see if they have been skewered by his pen Alistair McAlpine's deceptively benign exterior,

This past week has been a fairly typical one for Lord McAlpine of West Green. He began it at his home in Venice, ended it in London, where we met at his Hyde Park flat, and in between spent two days in Monte Carlo, where he holes

himself up to write. A devoted supporter of Mrs Thatcher, he was, for 15 years. treasurer of the Conservative Party and the most effective political fundraiser of recent times. Since his resignation in 1990 he has concentrated on writing, and next week The Times is serialising his memoirs. Once a Jolly Bagman, which deliver some deliciously stinging slaps to many a smug Westminster cheek.

McAlpine is short, plump and twinkly, but the benign exterior is deceptive, because although he is enormous fun he can also be quite lethal. Chris Patten, Geoffrey Howe, Tristan Garel-Jones and Baroness Young are just a few of those to be skewered by the McAlpine pen, plus John Major, of whom he has been openly critical for

"I say in the book that whenever I met John Major at Chequers, before he was Prime Minister, he was just hanging

around like a pair of curtains. and that is true, he was completely anonymous," Mc-Alpine says genially. "People would ask me why Margaret Thatcher was promoting him, and I would say, 'I'm certain it's to humiliate Geoffrey [Howe]'. She's not beyond wickedness,

but I have no proof of it." A little light wickedness is definitely not beyond her former treasurer, whom she appointed when he was just 32. A man of instinct, he accepted on the spot — an act of spontaneity which he believes set the tone of what was to become a great friendship. The job was, he says with an air of astonished humility, "handed to me on a plate", despite his relative youth and his total lack of political knowledge.

He says often that his has been a blessed life, the implication being that the treasurership was just one more example of this. And to the casual observer, his might indeed seem to have been a

Next week Lord McAlpine's memoirs will set a very large cat among the Westminster pigeons.

Sandra Parsons meets the man behind the jolly mask

charmed existence. His family's construction business meant that, although he left Stowe with three O levels (the combined result, he believes, of his natural dislike of authority and his then undiagnosed dyslexia), he went straight into a secure job with the family firm. He indulged his passions for art, antiques and Bohemian intellectuals, making and losing money along the way but always knowing there was never any risk that he would lose his home or starve.

He loved his father and adored his mother. The whole family - his elder sister and older and vounger brothers was close, and from it he drew great comfort. "We lived within 100 yards of one another, and I would go to see my parents

six for a cup of tea or a drink, just to talk. If I wasn't around, I rang them every day. We are a Scottish family, very clannish."

1 22 he made a suitably dynastic marriage, 10 Sarah Baron. I the daughter of a tobacco magnate, and had two daughters. The marriage ended in divorce in 1979. A year later he married again. He and his second wife. Romilly, are extremely happy and have a 12-

year-old daughter. Skye. As party treasurer he wielded considerable influence in the most exhilarating and dangerous arena of all. Since then he has written two well-received books, and his third will undoubtedly take its place along-

every evening at about five or side Alan Clark's Diaries as one of the most irreverent, witty and enjoyable contemporary

political memoirs. He has great wealth, a peerage and several homes. He is, he says, a happy man. Certainly he is good company: unpretentious and very warm. But, just as the benign exterior masks a razor-sharp wit, so too does it mask the sadnesses which inevitably accompany success. His divorce, and its ugly consequences, were so shattering that he has rarely spoken of them. As he recalls that period now, he leans forward in his armchair, his mug of ginger tea abandoned at his feet, his voice no longer

jocular but quietly intense. It was, he says, a Christmas Day of such ghastly drama it

The Party animal ended in his physical collapse.
"I had told Sarah that it wasn't working and that I wanted to separate. She persuaded me to hold off until after Christmas, and foolishly I agreed. We had our parents round on Christmas Day, and at about four in the afternoon I came back into the sitting room with cups of

tea and right out of the blue she

made this announcement that

we were separating, at which point all hell broke loose. "It was a phenomenally dramatic moment. My mother, for whom divorce was unthinkable, started to hit me about the head with her walking stick, she was so outraged. She was not very well and not very strong, so it didn't hurt, but it was dreadfully traumatic. I was in floods and floods of tears and I just collapsed on the floor. In the end they sent for the doctor, they all got into a great panic. The doctor gave me an injection and I went out

like a light. The next day I got

up and booked into a hotel in

Cambridge and wandered along the fens for about ten days. Because it was Christmas it was deserted. And then I came back to London and got on with my life.

"I think Sarah planned it because she knew my mother would tell me to go on living with her, but actually my mother changed her mind six months later because in the end she wanted me to be happy.

"And I don't think, if I had gone on living with Sarah, that she would have been happy, either. But I don't think she thinks that. It was a bit traumatic with the girls, they were about 12 and 13 and although they weren't in the sitting room at the time they probably heard what was going on. I explained to them later what had

happened. Then we got involved in the game of when you are allowed to see the children. Of course, I had a very structured diary what fills my diary now for a month would have filled only a day then — so sometimes I couldn't change things in order to see them.

"I don't think they ever really understood what I did and why I wasn't there so much of the

Continued on page 2

SHOPPING......23 GARDENING.....45 PROPERTY.....

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Why do more people go back to Cyprus than anywhere else in the Med?

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have to go to Norway bearing gifts. A friend of mine, in lighting upon an exotic foreign heauty to have his children, chose a Norwegian. Which means that when his friends travel off to pay their respects, and shower the baby with gifts, they buy a ticket not for a beach house in Sydney, or an Argentinian polo pony farm. but a two-up two-down on the outskirts of Oslo. And they are

reminded to bring a warm hat.
In taking gifts across national borders, you are supposed to offer things that are in short supply, or very expensive, in the place you are travelling to. So that's herrings out of the question. Traditionally, I am told, one takes alcohol to Scandinavia, where prohibitive taxation means the natives have to depend on imported firewater to

keep them happy in the long winter nights - but Mia is not quite ten months old, and doesn't even know what an afternoon is.

Another option is to treat the baby as a bonsai version of its parents and buy it something that offers a cute reflection of their lives. But Mia's father makes tables for a living, and My First Power Drill is something that Mothercare has not had the foresight to include in its catalogue.

Clothes are probably the safest present, but as long as the wearer's age is measurable only in months. the choice is limited to different colours of romper-suit. Furthermore, the French hold a virtual monopoly - brand names include Sucre d'Orge, Jean Bourget, Comme une Image, Petit Bateau and one is made aware of the

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potential naffness of babies: the appalling pink and fluffy things that the French find so adorable, but only because they have a secret yearning to wear them themselves. English baby fashion is still dominated by the houses of Peter Rabbit and Postman Pat.

Mini-designer kit is another horrible option. Chevignon and Chipie make sweatshirts in the £40 region to give your crawler that preppy look on which the American chain Baby Gap thrives - and is one short step from the most heinous of toddling fashion crimes, the baseball cap. Available from Baby Gap for £8, the trend is to put it on your baby's head



backwards so that he looks like a gangster. Should he decide, however, that he looks like a nerd, his arms are too short and fat to do anything about it. However, for

true extravagance, you might opt for a dress by Baby Dior (£64.99), but because they seem to make only one design - yellow with snowdrops and a white bib there is a danger of showing up at a gala premiere and finding Liz Hurley is wearing the same thing. Toys are not what they were, either. I spotted a picture of Miffy at Selfridges, but the staff had never heard of her, and in search of Chicken Licken, I could find

Chicken Challenge" (£18.99). A horse's head on a stick (£34.99) is presumably meant to be bought for mafiosini, to get them weared on to business early, and I can only

only Chicken Limbo "The Electric

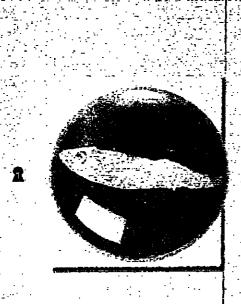
assume that Lego Clothes, available at Hamleys, are the learning toys of those who aspire, ultimately, to concrete overcoats.

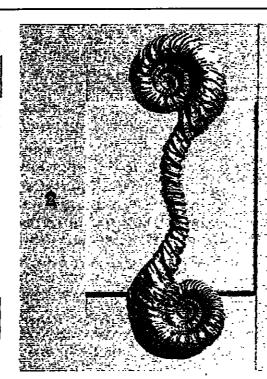
Hamleys also stocks IQ Builder, "the fun and friendly way to build your child's IQ" (the ultimate middle-class marketing blackmail) and Weasel Ball, an electric ball attached to a long piece of fluff, "Is it alive?" asks the legend on the box - the children watcha demonstration clearly thought so, because their first reaction was to kill it.

This baby gift jungle is a tasteless and unsavoury world: they are all out to give your baby the brain of Einstein, the criminality of Lex Luthor, and the fashion sense of Johnny Halliday. I was just on the

point of buying Mia a lifetime's supply of Tommee Tippee Portable Toilet Trainer Liners (£2.99 for ten), when I hit on the ideal gift. The Walk in Play, made by Mamas and Papas (£47), is a standard baby-walker but has one great advantage: as well as a gear stick and horn to keep Mia amused, it has a telephone.

With her parents continuously harping on about how much better life is in Norway, largely because there isn't any traffic, I can see to it that an entire generation of Nor-wegians learns to sit on yellow boxes at junctions while nattering to their friends, oblivious to the gridlock they are putting in place. Soon Oslo will be locked solid. Mia's family will move back to London, and I will be able to buy them herrings, after all.



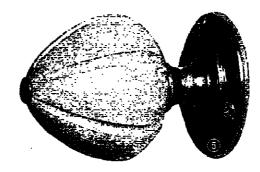




So you thought door knobs were dull? Today there's a burgeoning market for adventurous hand-crafted designs that add a twist of originality to your home, says Sophie Chamier



# With knobs on



springs from "

In the meantime, McAlpine

will continue to observe, make

mischief and be delightfully

indiscreet. Which is not to say

he lacks compassion. Brought

up in the Church of England.

he now finds solace in Catholi-

cism and says repentance and

forgiveness are two of the most important tenets in life.

with his continued estrange-

ment from his daughters by his first marriage? "I can't

square it." he says, simply.

So how does that square

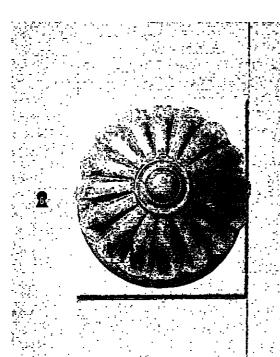
'l am sure I am going to

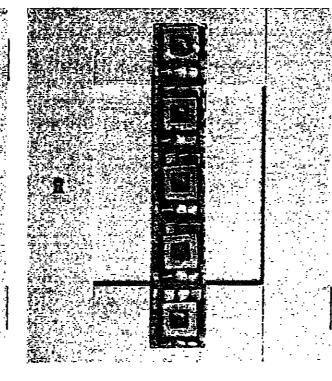
resolve it. But I know they are

happy and close to their mother, they have children and

pleasant husbands and they

1 Blue, handmade resin handle with fish and cast aluminium base, by Maaz Design, £65 a pair (mail order 0181-968 8493). 2 Double Ammonite handle, £25.30 plus £2.50 p&p, from Glover & Smith. (01256 773012). 3 Liam Carey handmade chequerboard glass knob, from £39 a pair, from Merlin Glass (mail order 01579 342399). 4 Pewter toggle, £19.80, from Glover & Smith, as before. 5 Polygon handle in hand-finished boxwood, £62.27 each, Ghislaine Stewart Designs (0171-820 9440). 6 Ribbed reproduction antique handle in brass, £132.18 each, from McKinney & Co, 1 Wandon Road, SW6 (0171-384 1377). 7 Mosaic handle, £16, from Dickins & Jones, Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 7070). 8 Cobalt blue handle, from £39 a pair, from Liam Carey, as above. 9 Crocodile door handle, £49, from Haute Deco, 556 King's Road, SW6 (0171-736 7171)









Photographs: Des Jenson Styling: Caroline Griffiths

Photographs not to scale. Dune box from Habitat £55; for nearest store call 0645 334433

are not suffering from depri-vation, because they are very well off."

have his time again he would not do things differently. The

treasurership of the Conserva-tive Party did, after all, propel

him to the centre of power

during one of the most revolu-

tionary and exciting political

periods of this century. And he

is honest enough not to pre-

tend that he would be willing

to make that sacrifice, despite

"I think it would have been

an unnecessary sacrifice," he

says. "Because you never

know what the future is, do

you? And in any case, I think the only way to learn is from your mistakes."

McAlpine, wife Romilly and daughter, Skye

what it did to his family.

He admits that were he to

Continued from page I time. And like all divorced and separated parents there were these awful days out, when you take them for the day to the cinema or the V&A or whatever. It's seedy and awful and terrible and I wouldn't

want to live through it again. "I have thought quite deeply about why the marriage didn't

### 'They didn't tell me when my grandchildren were born'

changed. When we married I was wonderful. But when I got involved in the family business, but I used to Party I moved into another go home to my wife every evening and we would go out to the theatre and so on. work and the answer is that I Things were going well and it

realm. I began to think much more about life, and I met new people with new ideas. My whole world had changed. I

changed with it, and my wife didn't. I grew up, and grew out of the easy risk-free life I'd had before, where the most dangerous thing I had ever done was to buy a picture I couldn't afford. As Baroness Thatcher says in her autobiography, I knew nothing of politics but I learned quickly. I realised it

His daughters, Mary and Victoria, live near their mother, and the three are close. Lord McAlpine. however, has not spoken to them for five years, after a terrible argument. "We had a discussion, it was the usual thing in families, it was over money, and it ended in a row and after that we didn't see each other again. it was sort of mutual. I have three grandchildren and I

was a crusade we were on and my whole life went into it."

haven't seen them. "I find it very hard because i am, by nature, emotional. My eldest daughter sent me a photo of her child at Christmas and I wrote back to say thank you, but my other daughter I don't hear a thing from. It hurts, especially when I think about the grandchildren. They didn't tell me when they were born. Usually I meet someone in a restaurant and they say, 'Your grandchild is wonderful,' and I say 'What grandchild? and they say.

'Your daughter had a baby a to have agreed with both of few weeks ago'. to have agreed with both of them. That's where the trouble

few weeks ago'.
"But I am a great believer in timing. I don't think you can force reconciliations. You can say, well, why not just pick up the phone now and say 'hi, what about tea at Claridges', and perhaps the reason I don't do that is the fear of them saying no. I think there's a moment that will come when I want to do it, or they want to do it, but there's got to be a motivating force. I don't want to say anything that will hurt

but I am convinced there will be one." And yet he is adamant that he has no regrets. He is as pragmatic in some ways about his personal tragedy as he is about the political tragedy he perceives to have befallen the

them or stop a reconciliation.

wo years ago I said in an interview in the New Statesman that I thought the best thing for the Conservatives would be to lose the election, and I have not

Conservative Party.

changed my opinion.
"The problem is John Major has a Cabinet of chums, and they can't say no to each other. He is inclined to agree with people, you find two people of opposing views and he seems

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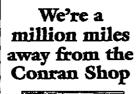
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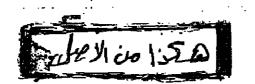
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# Wild at heart



TOP RIGHT: Blue leopard print halter neck knee-length dress, £25, Miss Selfridge selected branches (0181-910 1359). Green take snakeskin jacket, £249, Sportmax, Fenwicks, Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161)

Hot pink leopard? Or aqua blue snake? Just go with your animal instincts, says Heath Brown



**ABOVE:** Blue reptile print jeans, £45, Peter Golding at John Lewis, Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-352 5778). Black stretch georgette shirt, £60, French Connection, all branches (0171-580 2507)

nimal prints have been a fashion perennial since the start of the Nineties. Truecolour leopard and tiger motifs have been the most popular, but this year unnatu-ral colourways (from hot pink to aqua blue) and the inclusion of faux reptile and zebra effects, have given this look a whole new slant.

Gone is the tacky image of the Bet Lynch barmaid and in comes a more subtle selection of garments from designer labels and high-street chains.

Miss Selfridge has brought out a range of soft blue, pink and lime leopard prints in sheath dresses, trousers and shirts, and at the designer end of the market, Dolce & Gabbana, Blumarine and Krizia have again used big cat prints on soft fluid clothing. Camouflage zebra stripes are also in high-street chains, such as Warehouse, and are a natty variation on the present trend

for stripes.
These specific motifs, usually black on whatever colour, can be useful to liven up a tired-looking black outfit, and can carry sombre winter clothes through to a vibrant spring and summer look.

For the less flamboyant, snakeskin and other reptileeffect coats, trousers, bags and jackets are better alternatives.

Printed chiffon reptile motifs can be found this spring that contradict the image of the hard, scaly look it copies. Soft and floaty or subtly embossed on to leather and plastic, it gives a sexy edge to a classic cut, while python-print cotton jeans give a twist to a casual look.

An all-over animal-print look is hard to carry off with sophistication if you are not young at heart, but for a hint of the wild a lone accessory can work well.

Moc-croc shoes can add a lively touch to the most serious of ensembles and faux snakeskin bags look expensive but can be reasonably priced.

Just how wild you are

willing to go is up to you.

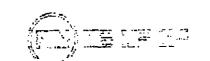
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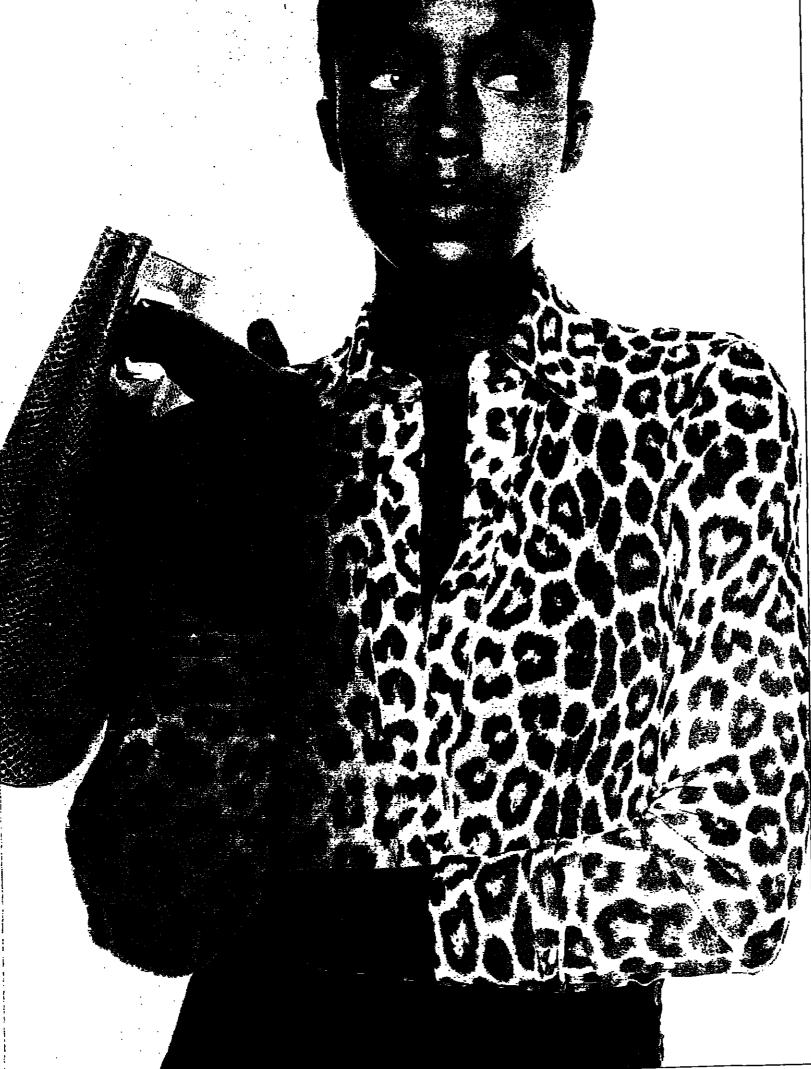
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Jane Owen rounds up all the latest information on what's new and what's happening in the gardening world this month

# Park life for beginners

### GARDENER'S UPDATE

IN THE London park where I trained I was apprenticed to an older experienced gardener. It was an excellent way to learn. About ten years ago the park swept away that system along with the glasshouses and nurseries. But now there is a move back to true apprenticeships with a scheme for school leavers devised by the National Trust, the Royal Parks Agency and English Heritage for 12 apprentices a year in amenity horticulture. On top of a ten-week intensive course in pest and disease control, plant identification, botany and soil science, the students undertake 39 weeks in historic parks around the country learning from older experienced gardeners. Paul Kennedy, 17, is one of the first and he is learning hedge cutting, lawn care and pruning with the help of John Thallon, head gardener at Beningbrough Hall in Yorkshire. Information from John McKennall, National Trust, Lanhydrock, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4DE (01208 74281).

#### Problems solved

HORTICULTURAL agony aunt and uncle Annie and John Manners, who run Green Gardener, a mail-order catalogue specialising in biological controls against everything from vine weevils to whitefly and slugs, have an advice line (01603 715096) on how to use these products. For a catalogue, send two first-class stamps to Green Gardener, 41 Strumpshaw Road, Brundall, Norfolk NRI3 5PG.

#### Easter quiz

THE commercial excesses of Easter can be avoided at Harlow Carr Botanical Gardens' children's Easter quiz on March 28 to April 4, 10am-4pm. And for those over 4ft tall, there is a course on making spring hanging baskets on March 19 and 20. Details from Harlow Carr, Crag Lane, Harrogate HG3 IQB (01423 565418).

#### Alpine garden

THE ALPINE Garden Society has its next show on March 29 at the Ian Ramsey Secondary School, Green Lane, Fairfield, Stockton on Tees. The show is open from noon-4.30pm. Entrance is £1 or free to AGS members. Details from Stephen McDonnell on 01429 231791.

#### Art tour

THE Royal Watercolour Society's "The Art of the Garden" exhibition starts on March 15 at Victoria Art Gallery, Bridge Street, Bath (01225 477772). Details from the National Garden Scheme, which will benefit from the exhibition, (01483 211535).

#### Merlin Trust

YOUNG horticulturalists with a yen for adventure can get a helping hand from the Merlin Trust which, since its incep-tion in 1990, has given grants for everything from plant hunting in Kenya to arboriculture courses in Britain. Contact Valerie Finnis, Merlin Trust, Dower House, Boughton House, Kettering, Northants NN14 1BJ (01536 82279).

#### Vegetable course

FIND OF THE MONTH

THE Royal Horticultural Society is offering two courses on vegetables for beginners, on Wednesday March 19, 2pm. and Sunday 23, 10.30am. Tickets: £5 members, £10 non-members. Details from Wisley Gardens, Woking, Surrey GU23 9QB (01483 224234).

TRELLIS... yes, I know it has been around for several hundred years, but Frolics of Winchester has cut trellis

from exterior-grade MDF, making relatively cheap lightweight panels with pretty designs. Its trompe foeil trellis "tunnels", with various eye-

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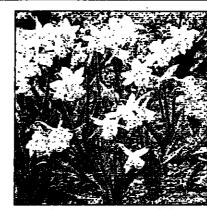


Trompe l'oeil trellis "tunnel"

#### PLANT OF THE MONTH

Paul Kennedy is learning about amenity horticulture as an apprentice at Beningbrough Hall in Yorkshire

TODAY being St David's Day it has to be the daffodil, particularly miniature 'Tête-à-Tête' and Carlton'. The flowers are celebrated at Cornwall's Theatre of Flowers at Heligan Gardens (01726 844157) on April 11-13 from 10am-6pm. Another extravaganza is to be held on April 5-6 at Kempley near Ross on Wye, Gloucestershire, with guided walks at 2pm on Saturday and Ilam and 2pm on Sunday. Or you could join the Daffodil Society by writing to D. Barnes, 32 Mongomery Avenue, Sheffield S7 INZ. Membership £5, family £7.50.



Narcissus 'Tête-à-Tête' miniature

### **GARDEN ANSWERS**

ALAIN LOCKYER

I have a three-year-old ceano-I have a three-year-old ceano-thus growing vigorously on an east-facing wall, but it has failed to bloom. What is wrong? — G. Whitaker. York.

Ceanothus, or Californian Ceanotrus, or lilac, need all the sun they can get. In the South you might just get away with ceanothus on an eastfacing wall, but in the North a southfacing wall is important. Ceanothus do not enjoy disturbance, so either take cuttings this summer to be planted elsewhere, or move your plant now - but ensure a big rootball of soil is attached. A southfacing wall also gives protection from late frosts, especially with Mayflowering species, such as the rich blue C. impressus.

Could you recommend a hedge that is not toxic to horses and is not eaten by them? -R. Evans, Baughurst, Hants.

Horses will eat anything. The A Horses will eat anything. The only way to establish a hedge where there are horses is to fence it off. You must either fence tall (which is expensive in materials) or fence well away from the young plants (which is expensive of space). Horses can reach 5ft-6ft over a fence to browse young trees. Of old, established hedges stock-proof against horses, perhaps the best is a mixture of thorn, holly and field maple, none of which is toxic. They will graze it back to the woodier growth, and make a mess of it, but it will survive.

Six years ago I planted a beech hedge 40 yards long. A few plants have refused to grow. while the rest have grown well. What can I do? — K. Miller, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham.

A Life in a hedge is competitive, and sometimes the odd plant gets left behind in the race. Beech aphids can also debilitate young trees. Feed and water your runts, and make sure they are aphid-free. If they do not make it, pull them out. The adjoining plants will merge to cover the gap.

#### STEPHEN ANDERTON

 Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington St. London El 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.

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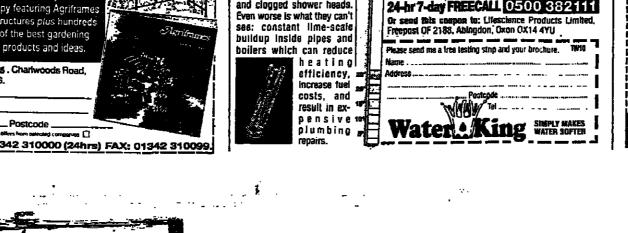














# \*Lessons in long division

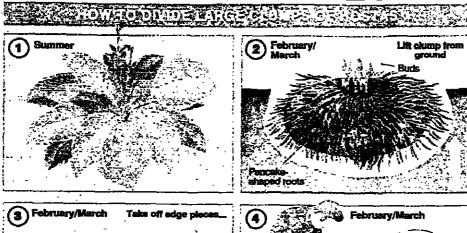
hen spring springs, garden-ers should pounce on perennials in need of dividing. This is the time when the soil is warming up, roots are starting to move again and buds to swell. Gardening books will tell you to divide herbaceous perennials by lifting out the clump, inserting two forks back-to-back into it and levering the clump apart. Neat, isn't it? Tidy, too. And it has about as much to do with dividing perennials as the BBC's Ivanhoe had to do with the Middle Ages. The reality is nastier and more variable.

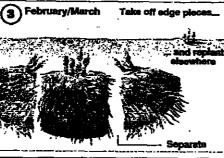
The back-to-back fork technique only works for fibrousrooted, loose-growing perennials, such as Geranium endressii (golden rod). But try that with an old clump of hostas or peonies and you would do more harm than good

An old peony clump, lifted, is like a gruesomely conjoined bundle of parsnips, and the best way to divide it is to slice off chunks with a sharp spade. making sure that each chunk has a bud or three at the top. Blunt spades are hard work; the edge should be sharp enough to place the blade against the roots and push it through with your boot. If you have to stab the spade at the root to get through, you'll end up cross and the peony

Hostas, for all their softness and succulence above ground, are as hard as a red cabbage underground. Old clumps build up on themselves in a mound, the fat white roots pushing out to make a solid pancake of root the size of a dustbin lid. If you intend to divide a hosta but keep some of it in the same place, leave a wedge of the cake undisturbed, by slicing through deeply with a vertically held spade. The rest can then be levered out of the soil and

broken up into smaller pieces. Two forks are no good for this, because you would only break off the buds from the crown. These are the vital parts and, while you can If you want to keep hostas, peonies, geraniums and other such herbaceous plants healthy, now's the time to attack and divide them, says Stephen Anderton





afford to chop and hack away half a barrow of old root, any bud broken means leaves will I like to go around the edge

of the clump, when it is out of the soil, using a strong handfork (or a pair of strong hands) to lever away smaller collections of bud and root from the main clump. With care and gentle teasing apart, you could separate every single bud and its starfish of roots below, to make a huge number of new plants (it sometimes helps to do this with the clump in a bucket of water), but usually small clumps are preferable to plantiets, so groups of six to seven buds are best.

With the edges of the clump broken away, this leaves a solid mass of deep root, sometimes a foot deep, with a few buds on top. Put it on its side and slice clear the top 4in of root with the buds attached.

This can then be pulled or broken apart into the starfish buds, or groups of buds. They are congested and starved at the centre and will not make such good plants immediately. But by next year they will be as strong as the edge pieces.

#### WEEKEND TIPS

Buy seed potatoes, especially early varieties, and spread them out in a box to sprout in a light but cool window or shed. Give hybrid tea, floribunda and climbing

roses their limal benuing cutting to an outward-pointing bud. Lightly scarify lawns in dry, breezy weather. Sow outdoors brussels sprouts and other summer vegetables.

You can leave hostas untouched for ten years or more.

but when the leaf size starts to diminish it is time to split them. A ten-year-old clump of a large species, such as Hosta sieboldiana var. elegans, will divide into 60-70 pieces if you want them, and have the muscle for the fight. H. plantaginea and its variety 'Royal Standard' are less dense at the root and considerably easier to pull apart.

Always take great care of the buds of any plant. Large clumps of the tall, magenta Geranium psilostemon may have only half a dozen of its lipstick red buds at ground level, even if the clump in summer leaf is a yard across. It is no use lifting a great wedge of root from the crown. if its bud has broken off.

One of the earliest soft summer perennials to sprout is Euphorbia griffithii. It

spreads by means of fat. underground stems and moves fast on moist soils. If you want to move a piece of this, gently lift a few of the outer shoots and trace the root back to the main body of the clump. It can then be severed at the clump end with secateurs. Your new offset may not have many fine roots, but if it is planted early in its new position, before the shoot has started to grow, at say 2in-3in tall, then it will quickly reestablish. New growth, once started, develops astonishingly fast, and makes later divi sion difficult.

The clump-forming Euphorbia polychroma can be split at the same time, in March, by slicing away parts of the crown with roots attached, using a knife, or by lifting and slicing apart the whole clump.

ulmonarias need to be divided early if the flowers and foliage are not to flop. Flowering is much better when plants are regularly lifted and replanted, perhaps every three to five years, depending on soil fertility. Divide them too late and the first warm days of spring will wilt the flowers. greatly reducing their life. Pulling apart the old clumps will produce strong plants at the edges and woodier, tired roots at the centre, which can be thrown or given away.

Some perennials, such as Geranium subcaulescens, produce a single tap root, but a whole pancake of woody crown at its top. Keep the twin forks well away, or you will kill the lot. This is a case for looking and hoping for the odd bit of crown which has made roots and can be severed away. Failing this, cuttings have to be made of the crown, each with three to four buds. inserted in sandy soil out of strong sunlight. They will grow away in late spring.

The telephone number for Jeffery Hewitt (Potty ideas for your window. Weekend, February 22) is 0171-607 7837.



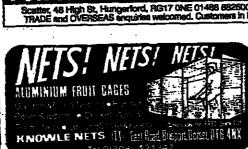
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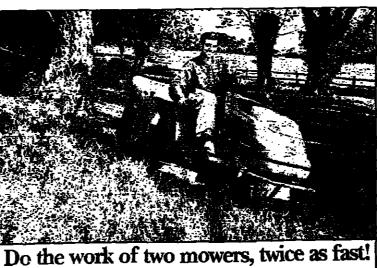
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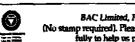
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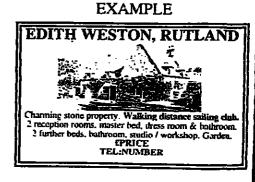
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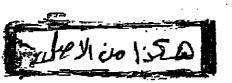
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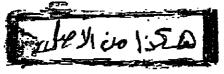
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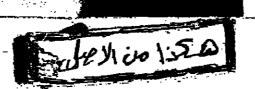
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THE SUNDAY TIMES



BLOOMSBURY r sale. 6 new build 3/4 bed houses with garage



Katherine Bergen retraces her schoolgirl steps and discovers a Georgian country house complete with its own thatched dairy

# 007 and a pool likely to thrill

he rhododendrons and redbrick monoliths which characterise Ascot and its environs have a peculiar effect on me: I spent my schooldays there and, albeit a happy time, each mile that took me away from home in London towards my boarding school was a painful one. Recently, under a lowering sky and feeling a little nostalgic as I drove past the sweetshop I once visited every Saturday, I was not prepared for the shimmering white vision that greeted me in Sunninghill.

The Cedars, so-named because of the trees that dominate the garden, is a Grade II listed Georgian house. Most of the other houses in the area are Victorian or Edwardian and this is a striking exception, though the house is not seen to its best advantage from the front because it can be approached only obliquely from the side.

The use of wood throughout the house almost dazzles the eye: the Swedish owners are clearly lignophiles. To the left and right of the marble en-trance hall, from the drawing room through a dining hall and into the sitting room sweep yards of elaborate parquet flooring.

The drawing room, a formal room of ballroom dimensions, is decorated in a potentially risky Battenburg cake combination of pink and yellow. Somehow, with the lofty ceiling and long windows at both ends of the room, this looks elegant rather than sickly. An astonishing pink 18th-century grandfather clock, by the Swedish clockmaker Ernst, ticks soothingly as if unaware

of its remarkable colour. The dining hall, as the owners call it, is open on both sides. It is ingeniously lit by natural light through a glass dome at the top of the house which shines down through a illeried well on the first floor. The downstairs sitting room. ading directly off the dining hall, is puzzling: although it



The Cedars, Sunninghill, Berkshire • Price: £3 million Shopping: The owner recommends an excellent fish shop in nearby Virginia Water. Other shops in Ascot and Sunninghill are somewhat unexciting but adequate ● Schools: The place is stiff with them, from the young Princes' prep school, Ludgrove, to an assortment of convent schools for girls. Teenaged girls might like to know that Eton College is within easy distance ● Entertainment: The Ascot races; Windsor itself for royal watchers; Windsor Great Park for picnics, polo and horse riding; golf courses at Sunningdale, Wentworth, the Berkshire and Foxhills — and, although it quickly palls for many, aviation fans can admire Concorde roaring over this area twice a day

makes a cosy television room, there is no door you can shut on to the hall. Either diners might have to listen to the mirrored tiles. television or viewers to the

sound of people dining.
This is compensated for by an alternative sitting area upstairs. The owners have furnished the huge landing as a family room, making the best use of this often ignored area. The six bedrooms raditwo sides

ate off this area. I was especially taken with the bathroom to the master bedroom. The matching suite, including a vast bath with Jacuzzi, was the exact colour of good claret. In fact, most of the

bathrooms had adventurous colour schemes. Another I liked had smoked blue glass

The owners admit that their taste for wood and light has much to do with their nationality. There are no dark rooms in this house; even the smallest of the bedrooms, used as an ironing room, has windows on

The back of the house is more imposing than the front, a fact which has not escaped the estate agents, who have photographed the rear for the sale brochure. There is something of the White House about it from this angle. I

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The huge drawing room is decorated in a risky Battenburg cake combination of pink and yellow, but most visitors find the effect elegant rather than sickly would not have been surprised to see Socks the First Cat climbing one of the Lebanese cedars, or Chelsea, the First Daughter, playing on the hard tennis court.

When you step from the garden into the Victorian-style conservatory, which houses the indoor pool, you are con-fronted by the large image of a shark in the deep end with the best known numerical sequence in modern literature. 007, emblazoned on its head. This might unnerve the younger or untwored swimmer. Sadly, the owner could not account for the image, shrugging that it was a conceit of the previous owner. Never mind, this is one of the few private indoor pools I have seen deep enough for a diving board.

or those who, like Marie Antoinette, enjoy playing milkmaids there is a charming thatched dairy in the grounds. The unfortunate queen would have loved this pretty building with its Gothic windows and stained glass.

A stream runs beneath the dairy, keeping it marvellously cool, and decorative ramshead medallions lend it a Dionysian touch. The family use it to 8644), Knight Frank (01344 24732). serve food for garden picnics.

The owners, who are selling the house after 13 years there, because their children have grown up, recount how on their arrival they were visited by the vicar from the church next door. Making what he assumed to be light conversa-tion, he told the newcomers that their front garden had once been part of the church's

burial ground. But this is not a house of shadows. The endless large windows give the interior a kind of crystalline light that painters such as Vermeer would have swooned for. Agents: Savills (0171-499)



The rear of the building resembles the White House

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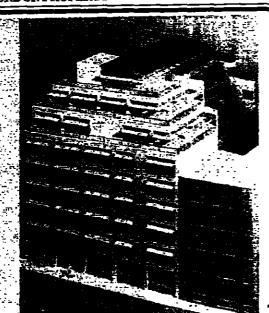
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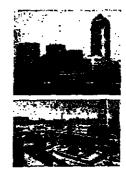
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Ever wondered who lived in your house before you did? Trace its history and you could be in for a few surprises

# Who's slept in my bed?

hether you believe that past owners affect the ambience of your home or you are interested in finding out more about your area, a search into the history of your house can be fascinating.

Every house has a story to tell and a small Victorian terrace house is as likely to have as interesting a tale as a stately home. It is also possible that you will find some unexpected similarities to the former owners. My brother was surprised to learn that another John Blake had lived on the site of his house 200 years before him.

Julia Melvin, a professional ar-chivist and a local historian, says: "When you research it is important to look at your house in context. It's helpful if you can find out about rail and road developments of the past and the trades that were prevalent in the region. These provide pointers to the rough date of your house.

Manchester is an example of an area where housing has grown hand-in-hand with its 19th-century trade. Before American independence it was so small that it did not have its own MP. The city's success was largely due to its trade with America and the industries such as cotton processing that developed.
You may find that your area has

undergone a complete social change. Some of the most beautiful residences in London used to house several families living in total poverty under one roof. Notting Hill has relatively recently become a desirable area. Its substantial houses were developed for affluent oper went bankrupt and the streets became slums.

Mrs Melvin has recently moved into a Tudor house in Burford, Oxfordshire. "My new home has been easy to research as its history is well-known in the area. Before we bought it I was told that it was built in 1555 by Simon Wysdom. Burford owes its wealth to wool and Mr Wysdom was a successful wool merchant who endowed the famous Grammar School, and whose name occurs on every other building up and down the High Street. These details were confirmed when we found the date 1555 carved into the panelling on the dining room wall along with the cypher SW. It was like funding your title deeds engraved on the wall." A local library will provide much



Wysdom House was the home of a Tudor wool merchant

of the information you need if you want to do your own research. Alternatively, you can commission a house search. In either case you should be able to build up a clear history of your house, including names of past occupants, their trades and a history of your area.

Before beginning a search it is important to put an approximate date to your house. Is it part of a 1930s development, 18th or 19th century? If you are not sure, this information will probably be available on your survey or title deeds. A good starting point is the local record office. This is usually attached to the public library. A look through the rate books will provide the names of previous householders. The rate books are logged by street name and number and are usually supplied on microfilm.

nother interesting source of reference is the Victorian census returns, which were compiled every ten years from 1841. These can provide a wealth of information on your house, including names of residents, their relationship to the householder, occupations and sometimes details of any lodgers. These records make fascinating reading and you may well find previous owners with obscure trades such as brush finisher. watch-hand finisher or feather

The county record office will give

you further information on your area and possibly on past owners of your house. The office records information of county interest along with details of the influential people of the area

A central public library will usually hold volumes of Victorian photos and books about your area. It should also have county directories, land tax assessments and electoral registers. The British Library, Somerset House and the National Newspaper Library at Colindale, northwest London, may all prove useful in your search.

On Tuesday, March 4, BBC2

begins a six-part series The House Detectives. The three "detectives" are David Austin, a specialist in medieval matters and a landscape archaeologist; Mac Dowdy, a Cambridge architectural historian; and Judith Miller, an interior design historian. Each week they descend on a house to uncover clues to its origins. Along the way the team encounters concealed cellars, blocked-up smugglers' tunnels and a medieval manor hidden in the heart of a Georgian house. The series is accompanied by a book, Be Your Own House Detective (BBC Books, £16.99, published on March 20) which provides ideas on how to gather information from your house and the surrounding area. If you do not have the time or patience for a search, Sara Van

Loock, an independent researcher,

will investigate your house history

Julia Melvin, a professional archivist, at her home, Wysdom House, in Burford, Oxfordshire, which she has accurately dated to 1555 and provide details as far back as records will allow. About a third of her clients are businesses and the rest private homeowners. "Most of my commissions are from clients who have lived in their house for many years and love it, or they are

newly arrived in an area and would

like to learn a little local history to

feel at home," she says. "I think it

gives people a sense of belonging to

see how they are the latest in a long

line of occupants and to realise that

they too are part of history."

Ms Van Loock usually starts from the present owners and works backwards. "There are always pitfalls, such as street name and number changes, and delightful local subtleties with property names such as Old House, Old House Farm and Old Farm House,

which may or may not be three different properties. I use many standard sources for research, but I also have a collection of dictionaries of violin-makers, painters, architects and cricketers among others. The more obscure the reference material the better." Some fascinating stories have been uncovered during her research. One client was disappointed to learn that his house had been occupied by one of James It's mistresses, rather than by one of Charles II's. Another, a shoe manufacturer, was delighted to discover that the first occupant of

his house had been a shoemaker. Perhaps the most romantic story was at a house in Queen Street, Mayfair, London, which was discovered to have been the home of George IV's nephew Prince George and his secret wife, the beautiful Drury Lane actress Louisa Fairbrother. With her tumbling black hair and swan-like neck, she had many admirers. A print of the 1840s shows her as Sinbad the Sailor, in white tights, false moustache and beard, with a scimitar thrust into her belt. She had no aspiration to become a duchess and on her marriage gave up the stage and lived quietly in Queen Street under the name Mrs FitzGeorge.

Ms Van Loock has discovered the occasional murder, but only rarely encounters ghost stories. She did, however, resolve a mystery for one family who commissioned a house search. The house had been occupied by a Quaker family and one of the daughters fell in love with a Methodist preacher. When forbidden to see him again, she climbed out of the bedroom window and they eloped. The couple were happily married and eventually reconciled with her family.

The present owners of the house were delighted to be able to identify the shadowy figure of a girl in Quaker dress they sometimes saw in one of the bedrooms. They also believe it may explain why one of the outside walls appears to shake if you lean a ladder against it.

JOYCE BLAKE

 For further details on commissioning your house history contact Sara Van Loock, 4 Queen Square, Brighton BN1 3DF (01273 731319). For central London properties there is a fee of £77. Country properties cost £350 plus expenses.

### PROPERTY NEWS

#### ■ MORE buyers are looking to move out of London, or at least find a weekend retreat, according to Cluttons in Oxford. It reports that half of all inquiries for two Grade II listed conversions at Barcote Park, near Buckland in Oxfordshire were from migrating Londoners, and half from those in search of a weekend

■ BATTLE House, once home to Leonard Raven-Hill, the early 20th-century Punch cartoonist, is for sale. Many features of the Grade II\* listed house in Bromham, Wiltshire were featured in Punch cartoons of the period. The eightbedroom house was also home to the 19th-century historian Sir William Napier, and is built on the site of a 13th-century priory. Guide price £1.2 million. Contact Savills on 01225 444622

■ COUNTRY house prices are expected to rise by 8 to 12 per cent this year, according to Knight Frank, with total increases of up to 25 per cent by the millennium. The agents also report that 84 per cent of prime country proper-ties were purchased by UK buyers, compared with 68 per cent in 1995.

■ FOXTONS is advising buyers in Battersea, southwest London to move fast because demand is high. Last month it marketed a threebedroom cottage at £185,000. Within six hours 21 people had viewed the property, and the next day an offer of £200,000 was accepted.

AMANDA LOOSE | had not specified an exact

# The moveable minefield

### The cost of

moving house can vary

enormously

ast year we moved from a huge Georgian rectory in Lincolnshire to a woefully smaller house in Surrey. We got three quotes. Pickfords said it would cost £4,260, Wilkins & Sons in Surrey said E3,997.40 and Smeeton Panton

in Lincolnshire £1,912.50. The difference in price was astonishing. What's more, Pickfords wanted to charge an additional E453.00 to insure the move, but Smeeton Panton only £150.

We took the lowest quote and nothing was broken, nothing went missing and the removal men kept to the timetable they had outlined. They also managed to rearrange the delivery and put things into storage for us when our builders let us down.

There is no easy explanation for the difference. Smeeton Panton told me that they once lost business to Pickfords "as on that occasion we were twice as dear".

Pickfords were equally bemused. The whole thing seems a lottery and firms seem to be working in the dark. The difference in price had nothing to do with popular moving dates, or return loads, as we

### **GOOD** MOVES

■ Get three quotes from reputable removers then go back to your preferred mover and ask them to match your lowest offer.

Lise a member of the British Association of Removers (0181-861 3331).

Move midweek, you often get a better deal.

The estimator should visit and you should point out any concerns then.

■ Get rid of everything you can before the move and run down freezer stocks. Put fragile items you

want to take with you in the car before the removers arrive. Give the removal team a

spare key to the new property, show them the kettle, tea and bisenits. Don't hover. Know where the main

furniture will go in the new house and give the crew captain a plan. Designate a room for things that you will have to organise later.

date. A spokesman for the

British Association of Remov-

ers says: "I am amazed at the

fantastic difference. He was

of the view, however, that the underbidders had "thrown away £1,500". BAR recom-

mends getting two or three

quotes. In our case, if we had

Ensure that boxes are properly labelled.



■ Check wrapped pictures and fragile contents as swiftly as you can, especially after orage. Most insurance policies allow you only a few days to

■ Tipping. You don't have to but £5 a man is okay and £10 is very good news.

Keep calm. only about 5 per cent of all moves ever experience any real problems.

### SAD MOVES.

everything in the pouring rain from one removals van to another on the A30 because the van had broken down.

Removals vans are stolen about six times a year. The thieves are after the van, which can cost up to £140,000. They end up full of stolen cars in Bulgaria or Romania.

■ One family had 14 people to dinner the night before the move and left the washingup to the removers.

A household received regular invoices for their goods in store. When they went to collect them the warehouse had

■ A couple moving from London to Hampshire found the removers did not turn up because they both thought the other had confirmed the

■ A removal crew who went to the wrong King's Road in London. They were let in by a non-English speaking cleaner and had loaded half the contents before the mistal

a comparable firm. The esti-mators are engaged in a blind auction. When they can see the other bids, they might well change their own.

Anthony Ward-Thomas of the eponymous London-based removers says that you should not seek a quote over the

telephone. The estimator ought to see for themselves what is involved. The quote should give a breakdown of how the move will be handled - so many men to pack on the first day, so many the second - so you can see what you are

paying for.
"A classic London four or five-bedroom household making a two-mile move will cost about £1,000 to £1,600 and take two days. If you are moving 100 miles you will need three days and it will add £500 to £700 to the bill."

You judge the firm by their estimator. He has got to be on time, he has to listen, make a sensible moving plan at a good price. Mr Ward-Thomas says: "If you are particularly worried about grandma's desk then say so, and it will go down on the worksheet. Then when you open the door to the removal crew on the fateful morning, the crew captain will say. 'Now show me grandma's desk', and by the time he has lovingly wrapped it up, the house owner's fears have evaporated.

The customer's anxieties build up to the boil." says Mr Ward-Thomas. After all the tensions of the buying and selling process, the doorbell rings and that pent up emotion locuses on the removal men on the doorstep.
"Properly handled, the anxi-

ety should easily dissipate as the move smoothly gets under way," he says.

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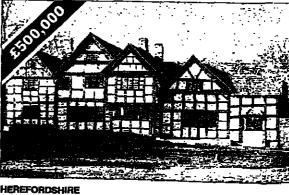
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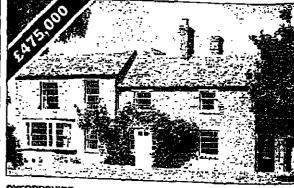
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flat. Outbuildings. About £500,000 (Savills, 01722 320422).

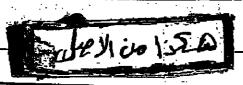


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Namen Familiouse, Thames Lane, Culham, Traditional familiouse Warren Farmhouse. I names Lane, Guinam. Hadmonai raminuses with four acres of garden and paddocks. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), drawing room, dining room, sitting room, kitchen/breaklast room and cloakroom. Coach house, stable block and barn. About £475,000 (Knight Frank, 01865 790077).

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#### A VET WRITES

My budgie, Clarence, developed scabs just above his beak. Now I can hardly see the colour of the blue patch where his nostrils are and which tells me he's a boy, and it is spreading on to his beak. What should I do?

A i suspect Clarence has scaly face, caused by a mite called Cnemidocoptes. Treatment involves painting the lesions with a parasiticide prescribed by your vet. To prevent reinfection wash the cage, perches and any toys or feeding dishes he has rubbed against. It is not life-threatening, but untreated scaly face can lead to beak deformities.

How can I protect my poultry from foxes? One has just killed a lovely cockerel — the tenth in two years. There is a 6st fence around most of the garden but in one or two places there is only trellis, and this fox knows his way in. I have beard of liquid sprays that repel foxes, and someone told me an electronic sound machine would keep

The only certain way of protecting your birds is to destroy the fox. A pest control firm may do this or a helpful gamekeeper. I have little faith in sprays or supersonic sounds. Electric mesh fencing might be effective. It is low voltage and there is no danger to people or animals. A fox-proof enclosure, with a roof, needs heavy-duty mesh buried at least lft foot into the ground - foxes can dig. This is not cheap and your poultry will no longer be free-range.

My young son has been offered some Indian stick insects. He is keen, but he is ten and his mother will be left in charge when his fancy moves elsewhere. How much trouble are they?

Indian stick insects are Indian stick insects are relatively trouble-free. Keep them in a warm room in a tall plastic container with a mesh top to allow ventilation. They eat privet. Put some twigs in a jam jar of wet sand so the leaves will continue to grow. Make sure the twigs are long enough to allow twice an insect-length "free fall" space beneath them. This ensures that the dead skin falls away when the stick insect moults. It the old skin adheres it can cause leg or body deformities.

JAMES ALLCOCK

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Babies are being treated for obesity with low-fat, low-cholesterol diets that can cause growth problems

# Why we need the fats of the land

hen Big Night, the surprise hit film featuring a pair of Italian brothers preparing a feast, was released last October. American cinema-goers lapped up its orgy of epicurean delights. Here were the forbidden fruits - the saturated fats, the goat's cheese, the prosciutto, the focaccia, the roast pig

that America in its rediscovered puritanism has outlawed.

American food has hit an all-time low of reduced-fat respectability. The country is gripped by a food fascism that reaches out to every newly-arrived ethnic group and turns their cuisines into a lowcalorie, homogenised American ver-sion of Italian, Mexican or Chinese.

The cause of the low-fat fashion is plain to see. About a third of Americans are obese and, as Americans become fatter, their bogeyman has become fat. Because Americans have been told to reduce fat in their diets, they shun it completely and even give their babies low-fat milk. The result of this supposedly healthy eating, far from making Americans fitter, has apparently made them ill. Doctors and nutritionists are seeing cases of what is termed, in English medical schools. "muesli malnutrition" — because of a gradual starving of the body of some of the essential nutrients and vitamins in fats and oils. The list of ailments makes alarming reading and includes vitamin deficiencies, menstrual problems in young women and, most worryingly. growth retardation in babies.

These health problems are not occurring in low-income family groups who might not be able to afford a good diet, but among the middle-classes: caring mothers feeding their babies, athletes, healthconscious young women.

A low-fat diet, as every psychologist knows, can also make humans depressed. Stephen Manuck, director of the behavioural physiology laboratory at the University of Pittsburg, says that low-fat, lowcholesterol diets have been shown to decrease brain levels of serotonin in monkeys, and make them predisposed to aggression.

In humans, the aggression turns inwards: "Low serotonin has been associated with increased risk of suicide," says Professor Manuck. Jeanne Goldberg, associate profes-

The fashion for low-fat diets that is sweeping America is

making health

addicts ill, reports **Lois Letts** 

sor and director of the nutrition communication centre at Tufts University, Boston, finds the new puritanism depressing: "One of the striking differences between Americans and Europeans is the way Europeans sit down to eat. We have thrown out much of the pleasure of eating. Afternoon tea would never survive here, nor the idea of sitting around after dinner enjoying a cheese course. Americans have this

sad approach to their health." The real culprit, Goldberg ex-plains, is not fat, but the sedentary

lifestyles most Americans lead. In Britain, the passion for low-fat alternatives has shrunk the choices among normal food. One must search hard for the lone bottle of full-fat milk, skulking at the back of the fridge behind rows of lactic impersonators: skim, fortified skim, lactose-reduced and lactose-free. The butter shelves — or where butter used to be — is another depressing story. Every permuta-tion of the "I-Can't-Believe-It's-Not-Butter" spread tempts the healthconscious consumer.

The new puritanism may be damaging children. Dietary Guidelines, issued by the US Department of Agriculture every five years, recommend that children as young as two start reducing their fat intake to the same level as those advised for adults - that is, about 30 per cent of their daily calories.

Fima Lifshitz, who published one of the first studies on American children who placed themselves on diets, thinks this is absurd. At his clinic in New York he treated hundreds of children — including babies and toddlers — who had growth problems resulting from Inw-fat. low-cholesterol diets. When you eliminate important

dietary components, such as eggs and meat, you do away with important nutrients - minerals like iron, calcium and zinc. Infants are brought to us who are being treated by their parents for obesity." Adam Drewnowski, a dietary expert at the University of Michigan, agrees: The idea that babies of two can be fed low-fat milk is ridiculous. Children need energy and calories. There is no way you can feed a growing child, whose energy needs are in the order of 3,000-4,000 calories a day, on an exclusive diet of vegetables and fruit." His study on adolescents, published in the American Journal Clinical Nutrition last year, found that low-fat diets among young women were associated with

menstrual abnormalities. These are not women with anorexia or bulimia. We're picking up abnormalities with diets in which as much as 20 per cent of the calories come from fat. Books which recommend that percentage level in your diet are aimed at overweight. middle-aged men, not women of

childbearing age."
Robert Crayhon, nutritionist and author, considers the call to remove fat from the diet to be disastrous. Fats are critical for brain function. preventing heart disease and for immune function. A study in the Journal of Arthritis and Rheumatism showed that you could treat arthritis with fish oil. And for breastfeeding women, it's essential to get fats and oils into the baby. You're building a brain."

r Crayhon emphasises the importance of enjoying food. "It's a scientific fact that if you're enjoying your meals, you're absorbing more nutrients from them." He treats patients suffering from all manner of problems with a range of essential fats and oils. "I had one woman coming to me. horribly depressed in the middle of winter. She was sleeping 16 or 18 hours a day. I put her on fish oils and a few other numents, and they made an enormous difference. Soon

she was planning a party."
British consumers might do well to ignore the culinary correctness from across the Atlantic, and to emulate our French and Italian cousins who would never dream of putting calories before taste.

### The dogged trail to Crufts

you your dog has the looks can picture yourself in the dog food televison commercial that

likely to start. Karen Bicknell bought Max,

The long road to be Britain's top

of a champion and you year's Crufts' winner has been

Crufts is in its 106th year, and this year 20,000 top dogs will take part in a series of competitions over four days from next Thursday at the NEC in Birmingham. It might seem a far cry from the charity fundraising dog show in the local village hall, but that is where showing your dog is

a Hungarian vizla, as a family pet eight years ago. "We had no intention of showing him, but my sister-in-law persuaded me to take him to a local exemption show," she says. These are small local shows organised on behalf of a nearby charity, under Kennel Club rules, and usually include fun categories such as "The dog most like its owner".

dog starts in the village hall

useful events at which dog and owner can practise and gain confidence. When Max won. Karen was bitten by the showing bug. And it was not long before her daughters, Kirstie and Susie, were in on the act.

Four years ago, Kirstie and Max competed in a Kennel Club Junior Organisation championship show which they won qualifying for the final, which is held at Crufts. "Although Kirstie and Max didn't win at our first trip to Crufts, that wasn't important. It was taking part that mattered," says Mrs Bicknell. Max was then entered in the

National Gundog Show, also held at the NEC, where he won and qualified for Crufts. Although any pedigree dog can in theory qualify, the road to Crufts can be very long. Most people start by joining

Exemption shows do not count as part of the route to Crufts but the dogs have to be registered with the Kennel

should also regularly attend ringcraft classes to learn competition etiquette and handling techniques and the art of catching the judges' eye. Not only must the dog move well and in a disciplined manner, it must be well groomed and immaculately presented.

> n paper, it may seem easy to qualify for Crufts: you only have to win a class at a championship show or be made up to show champion. To achieve champion status a dog must be awarded a challenge certificate by three judges at three different championship shows. The Kennel Club decides the number of championship shows held each year and what breeds can take part but the reality is much harder.

The work involved in preparing your dog is immense. a local dog club or breed society as these often hold Sara Wroe, another Hungarshows for members only, and ian vizla owner and show it is an ideal opportunity to competitor, calculates that the

Meditrina

athy for Ania

serious show competitor will spend up to 120 days a year preparing for shows.

There is also the financial commitment to consider. According to Ms Wroe, this car be in excess of £1,200 when you include travel expenses and entry fees.

Last year, all the hard work paid off for Mrs Bicknell. Her second Hungarian vizla, Isaac Fitzwarren Isaac of Szentendre to give him his Kennel Club name), won Best of Breed at Crufts and qualified for a place in the final.

"Just getting to Crufts is a thrill," she says. "Until last year's show the best I had ever done was to come fourth. For that you get a green card. All I ever wanted was the rosette, which you only get if you come

### BRENDAN MARTIN

• Crufts is organised by the Kennel Club and runs from next Thursday to Sunday at the NEC, Birmingham, Tickets (adult 58; child/senior citizen £5) are available from the Kennel Club, I London WIY 8AB; the NEC box office; or by calling the hotline 0171-518 1012.



Karen Bicknell with Isaac, her Hungarian vizla, who won best of breed at Crufts

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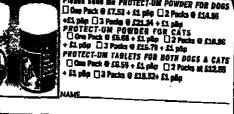
revellers. Ridden by the fattest man, the donkey will be pushed, beaten and jeered around the village and during his ordeal he will fall to the ground exhausted only to be hauled by his skin to his feet and forced to continue again and again. This year we will be sending a team including a vet

to try and help the donkey and we desperately need your support to try and get the event stopped. For more information about how to help please write to us at the address below.

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'Hard times have turned teachers into salesmen for their schools . . . they cannot afford to be as complacent as they once were'

There's nothing quite like a school visit to make you feel that you've come of age. For months now, we've been dragging our bodies around London to bleak breeze-block compre-hensives, once fashionably arry and outré, to redbrick townhouses with pupils who look like choirboys and sound like fruity middle-aged QCs, to huge Victorian buildings with high windows and (as we are later informed by the concerned-about-drugs parental

grapevine) high pupils. Our older boy is leaving junior school not this summer, but in the summer of 98. We have been so infected by schoolitis, this country's most enduring national neurosis, that we are looking at every half-way eligible secondary school in south and central London - from St Swotty's to Anarchy Grove - a whole year early.

The plan is to make a short list, which will doubtless be as hotly and acrimoni-ously contested in our household as the Booker Prize in a controversial year, because my husband is implacably opposed to private education and I veer

### St Swotty's – must try harder

from agreeing with him to thinking that the horribly expensive and horribly elitist St Swotty's would be the best school for our son.

Once we have managed to narrow the field down from a dozen or so to half that number, we will go through the process all over again, revisiting the schools, this time with our son in tow - so that he will have a say, at least, in how he will spend a large part of the next seven years of his

It is alarming to be deciding about your child's future, a decision that may scar him or build him for life, but it is also a fascinating process. The first surprise, as you shift around on your uncomfortable chair, waiting for the head to appear, lines of parents in front and behind you, is a dimly familiar butterflied sensation of awe and apprehension. It is amazing that authority still has this tug after all these years. The

second surprise is that the feeling evaporates the moment the headmaster walks into the assembly hall. This is not intended to be as rude as it sounds. although none of the met so far has quite majesty that I asso-

ciate with my old

Twenty years on,

the axis of power has turned, and it is the heads who are trying to impress you, rather than other way round. And, boy, are they trying hard. Their skin actually glistens with the effort of persuading you that it is their school, and their school alone, that will

LIFE AND SOUL



to be as complacent as they once were, now that even the middle classes are no longer guaranteed a living for life. Our local school, which both our sons attend, has a fair few parents who wouldn't even have considered putting their children through the

schools. The reces-

sion and increased

me so) had the husbands not lost their scholar/musician/ linguist/sporting jobs. The state schools which have opted out - taking advantage of this climate of hero/leader of men, as well, of course, as uncertainty - appear to be targeting the same parents as the public schools. The a fully-rounded human being, out of sales patter is now indistinguishable. Sitting in yet another over-heated hall, Hard times have we have heard the safe, reassuring, traditional blandishments - a tight ship turned teachers into is a happy ship, the importance of strong pastoral care and, oh yes indeed, a firm salesmen for their

ished in one hand, computer literacy in competition have the other -- wherever we've gone. meant that private You could be forgiven for thinking the schools cannot afford Sixties never happened.

The spiel may be strikingly similar but the presentation is certainly different. St Swotty's, like the airily insoucient types it turns out, doesn't try too hard. Some of the opted-out schools, in contrast, present

but fair leadership, the three Rs flour-

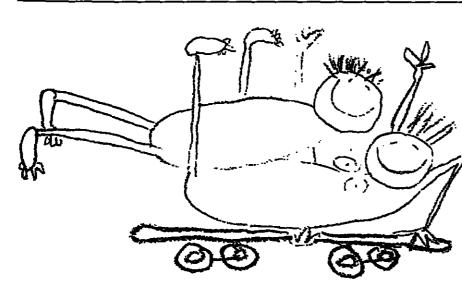
a bullish, arriviste front. They are justly

proud of their academic recruits and new buzzy reputations and, by golly, they're going to flaunt them.

One such school. Top of the Pops in the league tables a few years ago and consequently much written about has pinned glowing tributes to itself to notice boards in every corridor. When you arrive, the teachers line up to greet you. When you leave, they line up to bid you farewell. One half expects them to present their prospectus in a goodies bag or instruct you to "Have a Nice Day!"

Most surprising of all. I think, is the extent of one's anxiety. Or, rather, the batty, irrelevant form it can take. In one school, which otherwise impressed me a lot, all the senior staff looked like they were members of come-back bands from the 1970s.

Do I really want my son to have a head who is a dead-ringer for the lead singer in Mud, was the question which seemed to form itself in my head, and whose deputy could be the bass player in Showaddywaddy? On such weighty matters does the academic future of our son



## Waiting for the S word

Explaining the facts of life can be tricky for parents,

and the questions are coming earlier, says Jill Parkin

tricky for grown-ups, as we found when getting a cartoon book on the subject for this article. My husband picked it up from the bookshop and I shoved it in a drawer away from the children. Why on earth are you doing that?" he said. Our eldest, not vet five. car on the way home and thought it very funny. An obvious fiction, but funny, A warm parental debate ensued.

How you tell children about sex, and when you tell them. has always got people steamed up. Sex is everywhere and many parents would like to get the message across in their way before the child reads a headline about rape, or is told some twisted tale by a friend in the school playground.

Most experts believe the subject should be child-led; in other words, that parents should wait for the questions. But the questions are coming earlier and earlier. We have a generation of children who are assailed with images on television, video and magazines. Aids caused an explosion of condom adveverywhere from airport lounges to public

lavatories. American author Robie Harris wrote Let's Talk About Sex (Walker Books 17.99) in

The facts of life can be 1994 for children aged ten and above. Now she plans a version for children over seven. She says: "Our kids, wheth-

er we like it or not, already have an enormous amount of information and much of it is inaccurate. That's scary. To keep our kids healthy, we have to educate them." Babette Cole is the author of

Egg! It has a double-page of potato-shaped people with the words: "Here are some ways mummies and daddies fit together." She says: "You know the children are ready because they start asking questions. Where did I come from? What's that for? Why is

that dog doing that? You don't want to scare them and you have to know your child. If you have a rather shockable little girl you'll take a different approach from the parents of a little boy who finds the whole thing hysterically funny. When the children are little, it's important to know when to stop your

explanations. Penelope Leach, a child development expert and author of Bahy and Child, says it's important to answer specific questions. It may be ages before the crunch comes with. But, Munumy, how does it

Dr Leach says: "One child

rushed into the kitchen saying. 'Quick. Mummy, tell me where I came from Sarah's wanting to know'. Taking a deep breath, her mother lauched into her long-prepared lecture, watched with amazement by her daughter, who at last interrupted with, 'Mummy, I only said where did I come from? Was it

> "You do not have to get the whole business over by telling all. It is much better to let the child realise which bits they do not understand and ask for the

y daughter certainly seems to be taking the softly-softly approach. Having learnt some months earlier that babies grow in mumniy's tummy, she asked out of the blue: "Does food keep dropping on the haby's head?" She was told that the baby was in a special hag called a womb. Then she wanted to know if the bag grew with the haby. She has shown no curiosity as to how the baby gets there. And, having read the book, doesn't

believe it anyway. Not everyone waits. For example, Lesley Lamont-Fisher, of Cheveley, near Newmar-ket, Cambridgeshire, started carly with her three children



- Dominic, now 13; Nicholas, ten; and Charlotte, seven. They had a pop-up book to play with as infants, she says. It had a pop-up penis and a pop-up vagina. They took it all

in their stride. "We kept rabbits, guinea pigs and chickens so that they would see animals mating. egg-laying and babies from an extremely early age. It gave them an understanding of the full life cycle, including death.

"It's best to bring the subject up gently when the children are young, as an extension of what goes on in nature. It's hetter to introduce it in your own terms than wait until they get a convoluted version from

"By starting early, and having animals, our children accepted sex as just part of life. But they understood that they knew some things which other children at their school and their Sunday school would know later, so they didn't talk about it."

The Lamont-Fisher children all read Babette Cole's book, which, the author says, is for any age from four to 14. It starts with two parents telling their children a lot of gooseberry bush-type nonsense about babies. The children then tell their embarrassed parents what really happens. by drawing potato people. Because they are childlike drawings, they have the vital

bits, but only in the most rudimentary form. The book's publisher wan-ted Miss Cole, who has ten horses, three dogs and no children, to draw a book "with lots of animals doing it". "I told him: 'I'm not going to draw animals. I'm going to draw people, lots of people doing it." The result is a book

million copies in 29 languages. Sales are poor in America ("too righteous," Miss Cole says), and Italy, though it does well in the rest of Catholic

There's little danger these days of children growing up in complete ignorance, but sometimes they don't get enough reassurance among the facts.

Where Do Babies Come From?. by Susan Meredith, gives a biological account of conception, a gentle and brief summary of sex (complete with little red hearts in thought bubbles), and lots of

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information about bables. Once they know, of course, it's the end of the funny lines and malapropisms. "Daddy, I little girl told her father, a iournalist on The Times. Obviously she had the wrong pop-

 Mummy Laid an Egg! by Babette Cole (Red For Picture Baok, 14.99). Where Do Babies Come From? by Susan Meredith (Usborne Starting Point Science, £2,50).



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Ruth Gledhill discovers a welcoming link between St Paul's and Chelmsford cathedrals

### Singing its way to spiritual success



ANYONE in need of reassurance about the fate of St Paul's cathe dral in London after the arrival of its new dean. Dr John Moses. and the subsequent appointment of

Paul's first woman priest, chuld do no better than visit his previous cure. Chelmsford cuthedral, where he served as provost for 15 years. This was where the Rev Lucy Winkett, the soon-to-be minor canon of St Paul's. was ordained, and another woman priest, who was on the staff for six years, had just left.

With comforting clouds of incense floating from the altar to the ceiling of a stunningly beautiful and spacious white interior, this cathedral stands as one of the hidden glories of the Church of England. And well hidden it is. The dismally few signposts to it, combined with the plethora of unly office buildings around it, defy all but the most determined visitor.

Once inside it is clear that the fight against the fee of secularism is being won. An intensive programme of Christian activities and the commitment of the regular 200 Sunday worshippers means that, try as it might, Essex cannot ignore this font of religious activity in its midst. Compassion and forgiveness be-

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lea between services. \*\*\*

long to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against him," read the acting provist, Canon Timothy Thompson, after the choir and dergy processed into the nave. Readings from I John and Luke's gospel were followed by the sermon, when Canon David Knight pointed out that the full moon just past was the last one before

ly determines the date of Easter. Canon Knight spoke of the importance of recognising godly opportunities. Most people did not experience God as a "big bang" but in the small

the Paschal full moon, which annual-



Canon Timothy Thompson

things in life. "There tend to be lots of little kairos moments, little impacts. where the Holy Spirit gets through. where we recognise God, pulling us up short, helping us to grow," he said. Such a moment had occurred in his

life that week. "I spent half a day trying to unblock a pipe in the washing machine. I recognised the simplest way and picked up the

phone. God eventually got through." The washing machine fixed, we moved on to prayers, including one for "an end to conflict and division in the world and for those at war with

neighbour, friend or with themselves."
Underpinning the service was the singing from the choir, in purple lenten robes and immaculate white surplices. Dr Graham Elliott, a Master of music, is attempting to provide the daily sung services that visitors expect from a cathedral. Chelmsford, formerly a parish church, does not enjoy the endowments of the oldfoundation cathedrals and has never had its own choir school, even though it serves a diocese with one of the biggest populations in the country. When Dr Ellion joined the staff 15 years ago, services were sung at

weekends only; now he is up to five or six days a week. A music appeal to provide bursaries for the choristers has reached £1.2 million. Of the 12 men who sang for us, seven were choral scholars at Anglia University, receiving bursaries of £1,000 a

year. The 18 boys are drawn from three

local state and private schools. We left reflecting that the diocese, town and cathedral might be born of the 20th century, but that the cathedral somehow provides a vital, ineradicable link between secular modernity and a more religious past, remaining true to its Anglican identity in the

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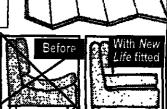
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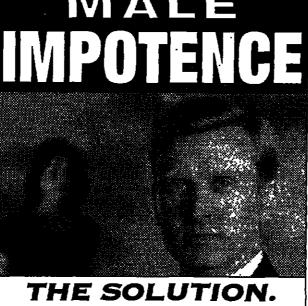
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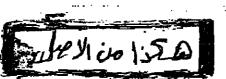
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This month readers say happy birthday to the Town and Country Act, attack rural town planners, and praise an ecological lavatory



The rural bliss of Eardisland on the river Arrow in Hereford and Worcester. But with many villages becoming commuter settlements, bolt holes and retirement enclaves, isn't it time to bring them up to date as part of a national policy?

# Let's inject new life into our villages

how me another postbag as rich as mine; everything from considered thoughts on the Town and Country Planning Act, through the strangulation of the small market town to a photograph of the writer's daughter on her way to the most ecologically sound outdoor lavatory ever designed. Thank you.

By coincidence, two retired gentlemen, who had the fate of large chunks of rural Britain in their hands, have written. Alan was a planner, and Jeffrey Stansfield, of Ipswich, Suffolk, was a county surveyor. Mr Williams makes the point that this year marks the liftieth anniversary of the Town and Country Planning Act and,

while not suggesting this should be celebrated by a millennium-style party. he does think it marks the ideal moment to review it: especially the way it operates in rural areas. He writes:

. . it has been a privilege to witness the effects over the ensuing half century. However, it seems to me that the country part of the Act has remained largely unfulfilled, apart from mainly negative control. The raison d'être of our villages has disappeared. Many villages have become commuter settlements, bult

holes, retirement enclaves bereft of shop, pub, post office, school, decent bus service or even regular church services. Is it too much to hope that we shall celebrate this fiftieth anniversary by undertaking a positive review of our present and future rural settlements. bringing them up to date, injecting new life, facilities and work opportunities, all as a matter of national planning policy - without over-reliance on the National

Clearly rural planning is much on the Government's mind at present. Hasn't it just made it much easier to build your own stately home? Potential palace builders, who at this moment are raising a glass of champagne to the Environ-ment Secretary while drawing up the plans for the West wing, should be warned that shopping in rural areas is nor what it used to be. Unless they are not averse to pushing trolleys around super-markets (sorry, no Club Class trolleys yet available, but Sainsbury's is probably working on it) they will find it increasingly difficult to exercise any choice in the matter of where they shop.

I raised this point a couple of weeks ago in the context of a battle about to rage in our local market town, where an outof-town supermarket is planning to give a hoods of a handful of local shopkeepers.

Barry Vaughan, of Kingsbridge, Devon. does not mind at all iects to. It is his view that the future of Britain's small towns

in the hands of the shoppers but with the people who run the towns. He writes:

They will have to ensure that such places [market towns] are not purposely hostile to people. I wrote to Marks & Spencer two decades ago giving them my fullest support for opening a new out-of-town store. I told them I was sick and tired of the continual harassment over the parking of my car. So, for many years, my four wheels have travelled several miles out of town, where I can shop with peace of mind. One day it will dawn on the town's shopkeepers what is

DOWN TO **EARTH** 



PAUL HEINEY

planners. I suggested that one way forward for the countryside, helping it to some imagined idyll where horses could safely plod the roads and speeding cars would go elsewhere for their pleasure, was to let the roads crumble. Were potholes the countryside's greatest defence from invasion? Country dwellers learn to live with them; visitors who prize their car suspensions will, instead, join Mr Vaughan for a day out in

"Potholes were the blight of my life in the mid-1980s when nearly every minor rural

retired county surveyor, writes:

wrong. Until then I am off to MSS."

immediately and over a period of time the extent of the problem has been much My guess is that reduced, but not entirely eliminated. shopkeepers in small Potholes, like Topsy, tend to grow in size, rural towns know and in a very short time the ingress of only too well that they are throttled not water into the road foundations would by competition but eventually cause complete collapse of by local government large areas of carriageway. This would cause even the most ardent conservationred tape: and bound hand and foot by ist apoplexy." prived of the oxygen of custom. Which Not Celia Turner, of northwest London, brings us back to

"Your idea of leaving lanes unpaved to slow down traffic is an excellent one. which works. When I was a small child in the 1960s we lived in an unmade residential village lane. We children were safe from traffic as cars could travel no faster than 7mph and you heard them crunching along well before you had to stand back. Then it was paved and traffic speeds increased up to 20mph, dogs were put on leads and we never felt the M&S car park. Jeffrey Stansfield, a safe again. I also suspect that denial of a

fish easily without coming out

of cover. Bitterns will always

be vulnerable. During the cold

spell in January, one observer

at the Bittern Watchpoint even saw three foxes trotting across

the ice towards the reedbed

and at about the same time a

bittern was found dead of

starvation at Amwell in the

valley. But with skilled man-

agement of the reedbeds they

And now the final word on privies. outdoor lavatories, the restoration of

swift getaway deterred burglars."

road erupted in a countywide rash of

potholes. I was given E2 million to spend

which has been part of our modest campaign in recent months. Jenefer Slater, of Budleigh Salterton, Devon, sends me a cutting from a magazine in which her daughter is photographed next to a structure not unlike something the road protesters Swampy and Animal might build. There are lots of branches, tree trunks and canvas. The caption says: Another satisfied Treebog customer.

The smile on the girl's face says it all. I will spare you all the details but the effect, a carefully managed compost heap, the nutrients produced serving to fertilise hungry, growing trees. Apart from the obvious, the ingredients which make the Treebog work are fine sawdust. shredded newspaper, wood ash and leaf mould. Its designers claim no odours or fly problems, and lots of resulting earthworms and flourishing trees. I am tempted. My only concern is for the planners and getting the necessary permission. Presumably if a stately home were attached it would be in order.

• Readers should write to Paul Heiney, Weekend. The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN.

For details of the Treebog write to: Biologic Design. Archenhills, Standford Bishop, Worcestershire WR6 5TZ.

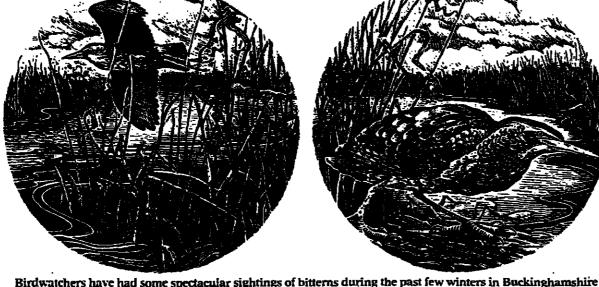
THE BATTLE of the bittern has begun. These strange. skulking herons became extinct in Britain at the end of the last century. They recolonised a few reedbeds in the Norfolk Broads after 1911, and by the mid-1950s there were about 80 pairs spread across seven counties. Since then they have declined again, to about 15 pairs each summer, and breed only in Norfolk, Suffolk and Leighton Moss in Lancashire.

Now there are plans afoot to bring the bittern's booming cry back to other parts of Britain. That amazing sound is the male bird's spring call, and it can easily be heard a mile away, or as much as three miles away over broad stretches of quiet recebeds.

The figures I have given above for breeding pairs are based only on counting the booming males - because it is very hard to detect the females or find nests in thick reeds.

Lately, however, it has become easier to see a wintering binern. At Cheshunt, in the Lee Valley just north of London, there is a hide overlooking a small reedbed where numerous birdwatchers have had spectacular views of bitterns in the last few winters. It used to be called the Waverley Hide, but now it is called the Bittern Watchpoint, and outside the hide, which has been enlarged, there is a giant,

> SHOPAROUND **ALSO** APPEARS ON PAGE 14



Birdwatchers have had some spectacular sightings of bitterns during the past few winters in Buckinghamshire

### Treats among the reedbeds

coloured cut-out of a bittern pointing its long beak at the sky. You might think you were passing some quaint rural

I have watched a bittern at a yard or two's range there, marvelling at the way its streaky plumage blends with the reed stems, and gazing deep into its fishy eye. There are other places among the gravel pits and lagoons of the valley where binerns have been seen, and in the last few

weeks there appear to have been as many as seven there. At the Watchpoint, one bittern has been around all day. and another has regularly

FEATHER REPORT

in the evening — it looks like a large owl flying in, But they will not be around much longer this winter. They probably come from Holland or Scandinavia, and will be going back in the next week or

English Nature and the RSPB have now drawn up an ambitious Bittern Action Plan. In the first place, there are some well-developed proposals to attract breeding bitterns back to the Lee Valley, with many local authorities and conservation bodies working come in to roost at about five together on the project. I say

"attract bitterns back" since they almost certainly lived here along the reedy fringes of the river 1,000 years ago. before the valley was drained for grazing.

The two main areas of reedbeds now are at Cheshunt Gravel Pits and a linle further north at Rye Meads, However reedbeds are very vulnerable - they easily dry out, with sallows and osiers invading them - and the first aim of the Lee Valley plan is to control the existing reedbeds so that the current winter population of bitterns is maintained. After

that, by extending the present reedbeds and developing new ones, the planners hope to increase the number of wintering bitterns, and finally, within the next ten years, attract at least one booming male (and, with luck, a mate for it in the

It is said that in East Anglia booming males need a reedbed territory as large as 20 football pitches put togeth-er. However, on the Continent they are found in smaller reedbeds, and everything really seems to depend on the food supply - the abundance of young eels and other prey, and the disposition of the reeds so that the bitterns can get at the

will have every chance of thriving and prospering. It is a bold and splendid plan, and other birds such as reed buntings, reed warblers and water-rail will benefit. In fact at the Bittern Watchpoint I saw a water-rail fight last weekend, with one of the birds silhouetted for a moment against a shining gully of water between the reeds. Now I wait for the call of the bittern to start thundering

over the north London factories and suburban gardens through which the watery wastes of the Lee Valley wind their astonishing way.
The Bittern Watchpoint is open every day from mid-October to mid-March. Entrance is free at weekends but

there is a charge of El on weekdays. For more information and maps contact the Lee valley Park Countryside Centre, Abbey Gardens, Waltham Abbey, Essex, EN9 IXQ (01992 7(3838). DERWENT MAY

● What's about Birders - watch out for black-headed gulls moulting into their dark breeding plumage. Twitchers - redbreasted goose, Keyhaven, Hampshire; two penduline tits, Westhay Nature Reserve, Somerset: black brant. Falkenham, Suffolk. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls casts 40p a minutes cheap rate, 50p at

### ON THE SPOT: LAKE DISTRICT

Rural recommendations

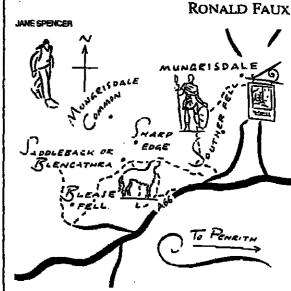
The place: The top of Blencathra; not the highest mountain in the Lake District but the most stunning. Also known as Saddleback, because of its dented summit. The view: Across the roof of Cumbria and eastwards to the Eden Valley and the long backbone of the Pennines. The appeal: A change of season, drift of cloud or slant

of sunlight all influence its mood. Aficionados: The well-clad and strongly booted, but beware, Sharp Edge is familiar ground to the local mountain rescue team.

Historical interest: Home of the Blencathra Foxhounds, descended from John Peel's pack. The ghosts of Roman legionnaires are said to march over Souther Fell. an outlier to the east.

Time of day/month to visit: Any time of year but allow for sunset - and sudden weather changes. How to get there: It shadows the A66 between Keswick and Penrith. Many paths go to the top; the easiest is to the west by Blease Fell, still a tough slog.

OS reference: 324277; Nearby: Some good pubs and hotels. The Mill Inn and the Mill Hotel in Mungrisdale serve excellent food.



The human cost of drought may mean water rationing, but what about those who fly, crawl or swim around our ponds and rivers?

# Creatures with a drink problem

ebruary was true to the old poem: it has brought rain and thawed the frozen lake again. But other months in the past two years have not slotted so neatly into timeworn patterns. The result is drought. The impact on human consumers is well known, but how does the water shortage affect wildlife?

Martin Drake, an ecologist at English Nature dealing with invertebrates, recalls a visit to droughtbeset Yorkshire last year. "I missed some of the creatures I normally see," he says. This year the omens are worse. January's low rainfall meant we have now experienced the driest 22-month period since

According to the Environment Agency: "Many river water levels are already 50 per cent of what would be expected for this time of year. Some are below 20 per cent. We are facing water at the low level we would expect after a summer

drought, not before one."

A variety of creatures will find the lower water levels an extreme, if not insuperable, challenge: common toads, at spawning time; water voles, already declining rapidly in numbers, when the bankside vegetation is dried out: waterfowl, when foxes discover they have easier access to them.

As always with nature, the loss of a single creature will have an effect all along the line. Hoverflies, or drone flies, whose larvae live in shallow water at pond edges, were reported to be scarce last year. These drone flies are part of a frog's diet, and frogs themselves are a crucial part of the food chain

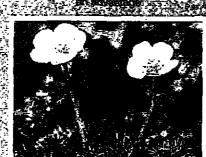
feeding snakes and otters. It is the shallow edges of water places that dry up first, and they are often the richest in aquatic life. A whole range of invertebrates inhabit pond margins and it is here that dragonfly nymphs clamber on stems of water plants to prey on them. Drying up of the water edges will also compromise food sources of wading birds, such as snipe.

Under normal conditions nature finds it own solutions. A pond, ifunmanaged, naturally evolves from being a clear water site. It will silt up, lowering the depth of water. and eventually become a marsh and then wet woodland. Wildlife that no longer fits in moves on.

The difficulty is that this cycle, in some instances, is happening in double-quick time. In the case of my garden pond, it has been going on before my eyes. It is a clay bowl







of a pond covering half an acre that,

until recently, brimmed with water

and wildlife. Now, even this month,

Thirty years ago my grandfather

would dive in off a board at the

edge, his glasses bound to his head

with elastic. One day the elastic

snapped and the glasses were lost.

As a child, I would paddle around

in a metal boat dubbed the Queen

Mary. Then holes began to appear

and one day the boat sank to the

bottom of the pond. But last

it is little more than half-full.

summer the water level was so low that we found my grandfather's glasses, upturned in the silt. The Queen Mary reappeared, too, looking like a metal bath tub.

Some of the pond's familiar wildlife are absent, particularly the moorhens that used to strut the lawn in droves, trailing black dots of young behind them. Over the past few days I have seen only one adult moorhen, and I recall the screeches of the birds last summer as the foxes attacked them. The

mallards, with little water there, became the foxes' victims, too. Despite the gloomy prospects for

wildlife in the months ahead, not everything is a loser if water levels are lower. Tony Gent, an ecologist at English Nature dealing with reptiles and amphibians, believes that in seasonal water places the change can be beneficial. As crested newts, and particularly their larvae, are heavily preyed on by fish, a pond that dries up once in a while has an advantage. "The pond will

distributes of the titles request in will share the drought weeks have: on widthe

also come back in slightly better condition than before," he says.

Natterjack toads may benefit, too. They are best suited to water that is shallow and dries out occasionally." Ponds that dry out are freer of predators such as water beetles that prey on natterjack

But Jeremy Biggs, manager of the conservation group Pond Action, does not blame simply lack of rain for the dry conditions: "We are worried about sites that have been

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which is found in ponds and is our rarest water buttercup."

Where a pond dries up entirely, a whole generation may be lost." Dr Drake says. "Aquatic insects often have only a year's life cycle. They will need to recruit new colonies from elsewhere, but if other ponds in the area also dry up there will be nowhere from which

they can colonise.' Eliminating habitats in this way is the first stage in a creature becoming extinct. In addition, the use of pipes and troughs in modern agriculture methods has meant that many ponds have become redundant to farmers' water needs.

In the rivers, lower water levels will change the speed of flow, which can affect sea trout and salmon breeding. These fish use currents and high flows to alert them to go upstream, so they can miss their cue in low water levels. Another effect of low flows is to block the gravel beds with silt. This affects salmon and trout eggs by starving them of oxygen.

There are implications for plant life, too, including water crowfoot, a white buttercup. David Withrington, a freshwater specialist at English Nature, says: "Normally it roots in the gravel bed where it has a firm foothold. But in a low flow it will root into silt that in faster water would have been flushed away. The silt makes the plant's hold more tenuous and so it is more likely to be swept away. Water crowfoot has disappeared from substantial stretches of river where it was once common."

Blue water-speedwell is another river plant that is declining. As rivers dry, rye grass in the meadows spreads down the banks and takes its place. Rare pond weeds are also going and their place is being taken by choking reeds.

Dr Drake believes "we have not looked nearly enough into what is happening because of these lowering water levels. I think we need to take it far more seriously".

At home, true to form for March, the garden is being buffeted by breezes loud and shrill. But even if the weather does revert to old habits, it will need a lot more than ordinary rainfall and July's traditional "cooling showers" this summer to make up for the months of

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freelance writer and copy editor for many years. He works for number of major publishing firms.

Recently some of his clients told him of the difficulty they experienced finding proofreaders. As we all know, the quantity of books published is growing all the time - so there is an ever increasing demand for proofreaders and copy editors. Trevor knows from us that freelancers can play an increasingly important role. Publishers agree that this is the most cost-effective and efficient way of getting services they need at greatly reduced overhead costs. The proofreader is still very well paid, so

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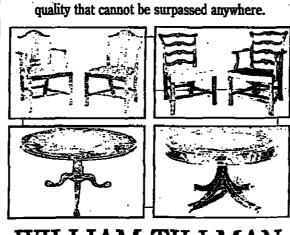
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shallow or seasonal and do not

replenish with water in winter and

dry out entirely. Seasonal ponds

should be a common habitat but

there are now few remaining. This

is due largely to land drainage and

abstraction. Those that are left are

threatened wetland animals and

plants becoming extinct in Britain.

These include the tadpole shrimp

and the adderstongue spearwork,

Because of this we are in danger

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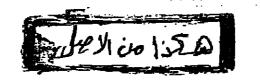
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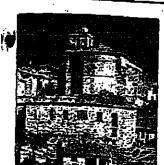
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threatened by the drought.







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# THE crave

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Saharan tales of the unexpected Morocco · 19





# When the battle's lost and won

Those people who believe that the grand style of acting died with Lord Olivier should hasten to the rural corners of Natal in South Africa. There, at the sight of Britain's great defeat by the Zulus at Isandiwana and the subsequent victorious defence of Rorke's Drift, they will find David Rattray, a young hotel owner. Imbued, as he puts it, with stories of the place from childhood, he will take them to the sites and recount their trugedy and their glory in the full style of Dickens reading

Like Dickens, he is seriously straining his voice in the process. Where once he took you to both great battlefields and talked to you on the way. in between, now he has an assistant for Rorke's Drift and asks you to listen to a tape of his introduction as you drive between Rattray's bungalow notel at Fugitives' Drift and Isandiwana.

trom Little Dorrit.

The hotel, overlooking the river where the last fugitives from the bande tried desperarely to cross back from Zululand to Natal, is atmospheric enough: a ranch-style homestead surrounded by bungalows. The lights work only for the hours of the generators. the bread is homemade, the meals are like family occasions. But the Rattray experience makes it special

Waving his stick across the Ivandiwana battlefield from the foot of the hill around which the British encamped and lost a full force of 1,500 troops, he said: "Imagine if you can, what it was like when those troops saw the Zulu army appearing over that hill, 20,000 running in perfect formation banging their shields with their assegai, their short spears." By the time you get to the last stand of Colonel

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wounded, held off the 4,000strong Zulu reserve all through the afternoon and night until Lord Chelmsford, the British General, returned with the remainder of his army to find the slaughter. No wonder the British Government awarded 11 VCs to the successful defenders of Rorke's Drift. It needed some glory out of the worst deleat in British colonial history. It was a humiliation made worse in the eyes of Queen Victoria and the press when, a few months later, the only son of Napoleon III and the Empress Eugénie lost his life on a patrol. This brought far more newspaper coverage and official obloquy on the officers responsible than anything else in this tragic and unnecessary

Not that the sites of the two Anglo-Boer wars of 1870 and 1999-1901 are not full of their own legends and heroics of equal drama. Our battlefield tour group — a motley and convivial collection of medal collectors, enthusiasts and an American ex-Special Forces officer who had gone to Har-

Durnford, the tragic com-

mander of the British forces,

as he gives his horse, Chieftain

been ridden by any other man but himself" — to his faithful

native sergeant to lead away

not a dry eye on the hillside.

Imagine it you can, for the

battlefields of Natal, the sites

of those Victorian wars

Zulus, remain remarkably un-

touched and strangely moving

with their piles of white pain-

buried and the obelisk monu-

ments erected by their com-

Isandiwana, fought in the

Zulu war of 1879, is perhaps

the most emotive, not least for

that strange and extraordi-

gives the place its name and

which so unnerved the Welsh

troops for its resemblance to

the sphinx of their regimental badge. You can see where the

British line was positioned, too

extended for its own defence,

and follow the route of the

fugitives desperately fleeing to

the river, where Lieutenants

Coghill and Melvill died try-

Only a few miles away by

path and 50 miles by road is

Rorke's Drift, where a garri-

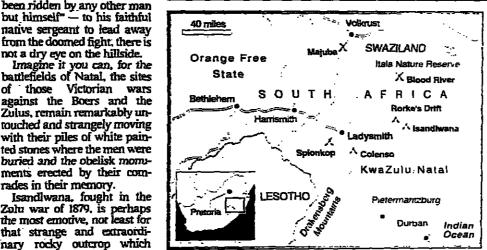
son of 120 men, including 36

ing to save the standard.

rades in their memory.

-"that horse which had never

Adrian Hamilton soaks up the atmosphere of triumph and disaster at Rorke's Drift and Isandlwana on a tour of South African battlefields



row - spent Remembrance Sunday at the 11th hour of the 11th day in a minute's silence at the peak of Spionkop. This battlefield gave its name to the football stands of Liverpool and the North West in memory of the local regiments who lost so many men there.

It was a defeat, of course How the British seem to relish their brave disasters. Sent up to storm a high hillside, the Manchesters and the men of General Buller's force, sent to

Zulu in traditional dress

relieve the siege of Ladysmith in 1900), found themselves exposed to a murderous crossfire of artillery and rifle fire, while the generals sat back apparently unaware how hadly it was going

Young Winston Churchill. fresh from his derring-do escape from Boer captivity, arrived on the scene and went up the hill to find out. He may well have passed Gandhi and his group of Indian stretcherhearers clandering up and

down with the wounded. Ironic to think that those two men. who meant so much 50 years later, could have trodden on the same patch of a foreign

Ciandhi, an Indian lawyer come to Durban on business, volumeered for ambulance duty because he thought the Indians, by showing loyalty to the Empire, might more readily he treed from it. Churchill, who spent most of his life opposing that end, was in

■ Midas Banlefield Tours, The Old Dairy, The Green, Godstone, Surrey R119 S133 (01883 744959), runs a 12-day tour of the main sites for £2.250, in association with Bertrand's Battlefield Tours of Pretoria. ■ David Rattray's Fugitives' Drift Lodge, Rorke's Drift, is R450 (about £05) per person full board plus R120 (£17) for the battlefield tour of Isandiwana and Rorke's Drift, PU Rorke's Drift 3016 (00) ■ British Airways (0.45 22211) flies to Johannesburg and Durban from 1727. ■ Drakensherg Sun Hotel, PO Box 335, Winterton 3340 (00 27) 364-681000) costs R470 (£67) per person B&B in shared room. ■ Itala Game Reserve, PO Box 98, Louwsburg 3150 (00 27 331-

BATTLEFIELD FACT FILE

47(961) custs R340 (447) per person for dinner. B&B and one game ■ At Ladysmith, the centre for the Angle-Boer battlefields, is the Royal Hotel, 140 Murchison Street, Ladysmith 3370 (00 27 361-

2217n) Double rooms from R263 (£38) ■ Also close to the Zulu battlefields is the German Brewery Lodge, PO Box, Harting Strait 3081 (0) 27 341-31735, It costs RI35 (£20) per person with breakfast.

Further information from the South African Tourism Board.

5-6 Mi Grave London SW19 4DZ (0181-944 8080). Reading: The two superb books on the wars are The Washing of the Spears The Rise and Fall of the Zulu Nation, by Ronald Morris (Pimlico, £12 50) and The Boer War, by Thomas Pakenham (Abacus, 110,99). The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends Shaka's Children, by Stephen Taylor Harpert odins, 50 00). My Traitor's Heart, by Rian Malan (Vintage, \$7.00) South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho, by

Rupert (saucson & adogan, £[4,44].



South Africa as a reporter, participant and general glory seeker. Less than 20 years later, Britain would be submerged in a world war where the casualties would be in millions and where, incidentally, all the lessons that should have been learnt from the Boer War seemed to have heen forgotten.

In the wars of South Africa.

the deeds and the names of the individuals could still be counted — and remembered: as you measure the ground where Lord Roberts's only son lost his life, and gained a VC like his father, trying to save the guns at the battle of Colenso; as you walk the lines where the British were forced back and their colonel killed in the battle of Majuba in the first Anglo-Boer war in 1881; and as you look out from either side on those hills and kopjes where Buller's forces took so long to relieve Ladysmith after six months' siege.

t is the hills and rivers that make Kwa-Zulu/Natal, as it is now called, and make it so beautiful. The Drakensberg mountains to the west rise up in a skyline of dramatic peaks and battlements. It is a resort for South Africa - we stayed in the Drakensberg Sun, a luxuriously appointed resort hotel which provide splendid walks and some of the finest prehistoric cave paintings in Southern Africa. To the north, close to Swaziland, the mountains have again been used as a barrier in one of the region's best game parks, Itala, with

rhinoceros and antelope readily seen from the coach or on walks guided by armed rangers. The most touching sights for me were of lone male wildeheest guarding their ter-ritory and waiting for the female herds to appear or for a young male to challenge them for position.

If it seemed odd at times to see such magnificent landscape through the lens of blood and battlefield, it was still an endlessly revealing one. Natal, and particularly the highlands, was where the British pushing up the coast from the Cape met the Zulus, settled in an empire stretching down from the North, and the Boers, who had hooked

around the mountains. The sun hat I bought for the fearsome heat of the South African summer in November, proclaimed: "Natal, the last bastion of the British Empire". That is no longer true in the South Africa of Mandela. But it gives the feel that can still be sensed in the siege museum and Anglican church of Ladysmith, and in the differences you see immediately in this still rural and oldfashioned part of South Africa as you move between English,

Afrikaner and Zulu towns. It is not hard to see why wars developed — although the politics of the British wars tended to be peculiarly devious and ill-considered - and why the battlefields still mean so much in tribal memory. For the Boers trekking from the coast, the Zulus were both

dangerous and untrustworthy and their triumph was in the Battle of Blood River in 1838. commemorated in a stark memorial of the wagon circle rebuilt in bronze replica on the site and still a place of pilgrimage at anniversary time.

To the British, the Zulus were the noble savage and the Boers were the dangerous and at times deceitful enemies. The Anglo-Boer wars were fought as white wars, with a good deal of respect between the sides and an equal amount of bitter memory.

gainst the memorials to the failen on both sides in the biggest battles, there are also the memorials to the concentration camps built by Lord Kitchener to isolate and confine a civilian population that were held to support the Boer commandos in the final guerrilla phase of the war. A third of the Boer population under 16 died of disease in the camps, their names recorded on blocks of polished basalt where the camps stood.

In a new South Africa and a KwaZulu/Natal run by the Inkatha Freedom Party, those memorials seem less relevant, more distant. Which is as it should be. Twelve years later, Jan Smuts and the British generals fought side-by-side in another far more terrible white man's war in Europe and the romance of battle could be sustained no longer. • The author was guest of Midas Battlefield Tours.

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### France: The delights of high society at Deauville and balmy nights at the opera in a Roman theatre . . . •



Golden days: The Beach at Trouville by Monet, painted in 1870, when fashionable ladies from Paris came to the resort each summer and paraded around in their silken finery

# Conquered by Normandy

he village was full of a carnival atmosphere with its inhabitants relishing the annual opportunity to empty lofts and cellars of brocante. Stalls jammed the main street affamilies enthusiastically offered for sale an array of household items, Fifties ornaments and oddities such as grandpapa's gas mask.

Near a food stall selling spicy merguez sausages inside baguettes were a dozen middle-aged women incongruously giving a keep-fit demonstration in the school playground.

The warm, early autumn sun was an added delight as I bargained for a pair of copper candlesticks, some Moroccan jewellery, a battered Greek icon and several Chinese lacquer dishes — all for less than Fr30 (about £3.30) each.

The Gallic version of a carboot sale was a world apart from the frenzied activities of nearby Deauville, where a phalanx of minders the size of Nubian slaves had almost squashed me as they cleared the way for Eddie Murphy, the diminutive Hollywood star.

This chichi Normandy resort is energised during the annual American Film Festival in September when Hollywood superstars jet in to attend the premiere of their latest blockbuster in the subterranean Centre International de Deauville. A stuffy,

incorrigibly grand town, it is dominated by the cream rococo-style casino and two fivestar hotels: the Royal and the Normandy. Women in pursuit of retail therapy will find branches of Cartier, Hermes, Louis Vuitton and Ferragamo where they can burn their credit cards.

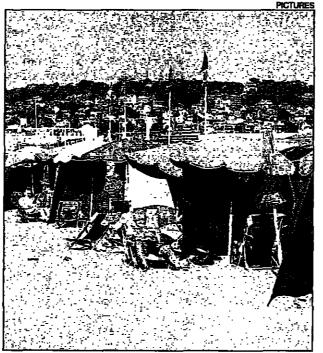
It was sur les planches—the wide borderwalk running the length of Deauville's vast sandy beach—where Anouk Aimée enjoyed her passionate reunion with Jean-Louis Trintignant in the Sixties film, Un Homme et Une Femme.

Early each morning you can hear the jingle of bridles as stableboys exercise strings of polo ponies and racehorses through the surf. For behind these avenues of rustic, half-timbered faux-Normandie villas and apartment blocks lies a unique French combination of Ascot racecourse, Newmarket and Smith's Lawn.

Throughout August, rows of privately owned jets stand on the runway of nearby St Gatien airport. The Maktoums, the Sangsters, the Aga Khan and their entourages arrive here for the horse racing, international yearling sales and role matches.

sales and polo matches.

The Cote de Fleurie surrounding Deauville provides
the visitor with many options,
particularly if they are Second
World War buffs art lovers or
gourmets. Only a narrow estu-



Deauville regards itself as the grandest town on the coast

ary separates Deauville from the cobbled quaysides of its louche neighbour. Trouville. Fish restaurants, such as the famed Les Vapeurs, conveniently overlook the small, turreted Marché des Poissons. Here, from seaweed-festooned marble slabs, you can select the exotic coquillage that will later take you a delicious hour to devour from your plateau de fruits de mer. Near the neo-

e from of its casino, once owned by Omar Sharif, lies an immaculate sandy beach. It was here that Eugène Boudin and his pupil small, issons. Some of parasol-toting society ladies from Paris promenading in their silken finery.

Eight miles up the coast is

Eight miles up the coast is another artists' colony, Honfleur, where art galleries jostle for space with souvenir shops and creperies. The new Pont de Normandie has unfortunately deluged it with even more tourists. But it is still worth visiting to admire the lively harbour with its tall, narrow, 18th-century houses and splendid yachts.

Most Norman towns and villages hold weekly street markets. Caen on Fridays probably provides the widest

range of local specialities, such as calvados and cider, and pont l'évêque and camembert cheeses. In Dives sur Mer's magnificent l6th-century oakbeamed, covered market we stocked up with bread, wine, pâté and fraises des bois for our picnic, although we felt sempted to liberate the live chickens and rabbits cowering in their hutches.

It is hard to believe that in 1066 William, Duke of Normandy, launched his invading fleet from this quiet market town. The harbour is now silted up and can hardly accommodate its sailing boats. Locals savour their claim to fame and have dedicated bars. restaurants and even an antiques centre to Guillaume le Conquerant. In the 14th-century church, Our Lady of Dives, you can see a carved roll-call from 1862 of William's companions in arms.

This jingoistic interpretation of history extends to the Bayeux Tapestry, housed near Caen. Hung in a new interpretation gallery it presents as fact the claim that William had an unassailable right to succeed Edward the Confessor as King of England. The story of how he conned Edward's rightful heir, Harold, is conveniently glossed over.

nlike many Norman towns, Bayeux survived the last war without bomb damage. It has a fine 11th-century cathedral and a worthwhile museum in the old bishops' palace that contains good examples of local lacework and ceramics.

Just a short drive from Deauville are the plages de débarquement, the D-Day landing beaches. We took a barefoot stroll along the warm

sand at Arromanches where members of the British 2nd Army had leapt ashore on June 6, 1944. The reeds beyond the beach are now a nature reserve and have a new use—as a gay cruising zone.

At low tide it is possible to

wim out to what remains of Port Winston. A dozen or so of the barnacle-encrusted concrete caissons, which once formed the Mulberry B harbour, remain. Built after the landings, they supplied the army until the ports of Le Havre and Cherbourg could be recommissioned.

Driving through the pretty Norman hamlets it is remark-

able how this ravaged countryside has recovered from the bombardment it received. ironically from Allied forces. The ever-resourceful Normans have turned the war into a moneyspinner. Even the smallest villages along the D514, the road which runs beside the evocative Sword, Juno, Gold. Utah and Omaha beaches, have their museums - of varying qualities. At the 360 Museum outside Arromanches, you can watch old newsreel of the landings synchronised with film-footage of the same terrain today on a giant 360-degree cinema screen. It is a noisy but

effective montage.

Local brocanteurs place a high price on wartime uniforms, helmets, rifles and other military detritus rescued from the battlefields. Fortunately they undervalue the worth of Greek art — I took my Fr.20 icon to an expert in London who assured me that my trouvaille could be worth over \$1,000.

COMPTON MILLER

The author was a guest of
Powder Byrne International.

# The appeal with of Orange

unch in Châteauneufdu-Pape with draughts of the eponymous vintage; a post-prandial glass of muscat in its home town of Beaumes-de-Venise; and, at dusk, a thrilling performance of Mozart's Don Giovanni in the majestic Roman theatre at Orange. As perfect days go, this was one.

A comparative stranger to Provence, I am in no position to grouch about the recent ravages of tourism on France's most sybaritic region. All I can report is that morning coffee, an alfresco lunch or evening aperitif-cum-stroll in Orange's traffic-free Place de la République — or countless other tranquil, ancient squares in the villages of what was once Gaul — is still as close to urban perfection as anything

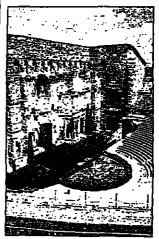
Europe has to offer.

Throw in some music each evening, in the best-preserved 2.000-year-old arena in the world, and I for one can ask no more. The summer festival known as Les Chorègies d'Orange, which runs each summer from early July, features two full-scale opera productions, several choral works and sundry chamber and solo concerts. In one week, for instance, you can take in an opera production plus a Mozart Requiem, or a Carmina Burana, in one of the most spectacular settings on earth.

Performances do not begin until 9.45pm, when darkness is finally falling. Fanned by the mistral in the night heat, a rapt audience of 9,000 is ranged on cushions around a hemisphere, facing a backdrop which Louis XIV called "the finest wall in France". Enter Ruggiero Raimondi, one of the great Don Giovannis of our time, hotly pursued by an indignant Kathleen Cassello as Donna Anna. The Leporello looking on with concerned amusement is Ferruccio Furlanetto, a favourite with Covent Garden audiences. while in the pit Britain's own Jeffrey Tate whips the Orchestre National de France to fever pitch.

This is grand opera of the highest standard, in a setting at once vast and vet curiously intimate, certainly more so than the cavernous arena of Verona. Two nights later there was an ethereal concert of French church music - Gounod and Bruckner, Poulenc and Milhaud - in the cool evening calm of the Eglise Saint-Florent. The following dusk, it was back to the amphitheatre for the last-night treat: a resounding Mozart Requiem, with an impressive array of international soloists. again under Jeffrey Tate.

In 1995 Orange presented Rigoletto and Aida, last year Don Giovanni and La Forza del Destino: this year it plans Lucia di Lammermoor and Turandot, with a concert performance of Wagner's Tristan und Isolde.



Theatre at Orange

Orange

Ovauciuse

G A R D Bagnoissur-Caze

Châteauneutdu-Pape

Pont-du-

#### FACT FILE

■ The author made his travel arrangements, including the opera and concert tickets, with Aria, 3 Pall Mail, London SWIY 5JG (0171-930 9040, fax 0171-930 8386).

The complete package, including scheduled British Airways flights to and from Marseilles, a week's car hire, seven nights' bed and breakfast in a central hotel, and fickets for all the performances (the operatickets alone cost about £115 each), came to a little more than £1,000 a head.

Reading: Music Europe, by Richard Mendelshon (Short, E12). The Avignon Quintet, by Lawrence Durrell (Faber, £9). France — Provence, by Dana Facaros and Michael Pauls (Cadogan, £14.99).

In a week's stay organised around our chosen musical events, we managed several forays into the Provençal countryside, particularly enjoying day trips to the papal past of Avignon and the exquisite little hill town of Uzes variously home to Charlemagne, Racine and André Gide, and just a few miles from the 1st-century Roman acueduct known as the Pont du Gard. The musical evenings in the theatre empha-sised the Roman roots of Provence by day, its rustcoloured stone basking in an eternal sun:

otel accommodation in Orange can be fairly basic. We opted a for a bed-and-breakfast deal at the comfortable, no-frills Hotel Arène in the town centre, five minutes' walk from the theatre, two minutes from countless outdoor bars and restaurants which beguiled the long pauses between each burst of activity.

burst of activity.

For twice the price, you can stay at the five-star Château de Montcaud, 20 minutes away at Bagnols-sur-Cèze, which lays on demi-pension "Chorégies spécials" for a

minimum two-night stay. Most of the specialist opera travel companies offer group excursions to Orange, and to the many other European music festivals, at rates which vary with the scale of your ambitions and your appetite for creature comforts. We preferred to book through Aria, of Pall Mall. London, which specialises in personalised operatic excursions custom-built around individual preferences. It is already helping us sift through a tantalising ar-

ray of options for this year.

A musical week amid the culinary delights of France or Italy means you return to the workaday world feeling mightily refreshed — wondering, as is with all the best escapes, whether the whole thing was really a dream.

ANTHONY HOLDEN









# Powder Byrne International, 4 Alice Court. 116 Putney Bridge Road, London SW15 2NQ (0181-871 3300) specialises in French

holidays off the beaten track.

using small family-run

châteaux and hotels.

■ The author stayed at the Château de Dramard, near Dives sur Mer, featured in Powder Byrne's "Invitation to France" brochure. A three-night stay, including the Channel ferry crossing, costs from £175 per person, bed and breakfast. The owners, Alexis and Luce Straub, will also provide a three-course dinner for £26 a head.

■ P&O Ferries (0990 980980) has three daily

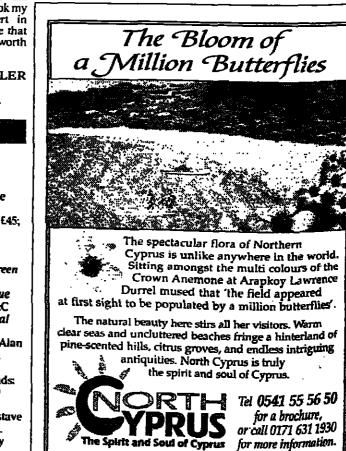
with aperitif, wine and coffee.



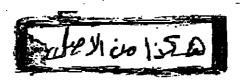
crossings from
Portsmouth to Le Havre from
£79 return, including car
and two passengers. Brittany
Ferries (0990 360360) has
three crossings from
Portsmouth to
Ouistreham from £79
return, car and two
passengers.

in Restaurants: Les Vapeurs, Trouville (3188 1524) E35 a head; Chez Le Bougnat, Dives sur Mer (3191 0613) £25; Le Pavé d'Auge, Beuvron-en-Auge (3179 2671) £40; Le Lion d'Or, Bayeux (3192 0690) £45; La Chèneviere, Port-en-Bessin (3121 4796) £45.

Reading: Michelin Green Guide to Normandy (Michelin, £8.50). The Blue Guide to Normandy (A&C Black. E9.99). AA Essential Normandy (AA. £4.99). A Normandy Tapestry, by Alan Biggins (Kirkdale, £5.99). The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: Brittany and Normandy (Rough Guides, £9.99). Madame Bovary, by Gustave Flaubert (Penguin, £4.99). Selected Short Stories, by Guy de Maupassant (Hodder, £9.99).



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.. plus eating, drinking and relaxing in Provence and cruising the quiet canals of Lower Burgundy

## Whatever happened to the Mayle train?



Avignon may be narrow, busy and infested with tourists and traffic, but there are few cities to match its overwhelming sense of history. The Palais des Papes is bound to leave you open-mouthed

t was the headed notepaper giving instructions for cleaning the pool that was the giveaway. Well, that and the rather large brass plaque outside. which stated that the house belonged to not just to a docteur, but to a

Normally when you rent a holiday home you can discover the character and perhaps the secrets of your absent hosts by performing the sort of Through The Keyhole routine so beloved of Loyd Grossman. Or there may be the darker secrets imagined by John Mortimer in A Summer's Lease.

But here, the situation was reversed. Surely a psychounalyst would be carefully examining the clues we left behind to build up a disturbing picture of a British family at play in Provence.

What did he make of the tattered copy of Telé Guide? That this was a family, who with Avignon a boule's throw away down the road. Mont Ventoux towering over them and a clutch of villages perchės within spitting distance, preferred to sit at home and watch badly-dubbed episodes of Dallas and Nightrider or mustachioed and brilliantined Frenchmen playing the accordion? And then there will be the

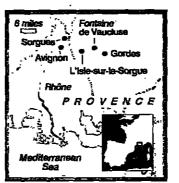
crumpled supermarket receipts. Evidence of more time spent away from the sights in the air-condition-ed delights of Geant and Leclerc. With a youngest child of two not yet attuned to the French attitude to eating out (two hours at the table and no leaving the high chair), eating in seemed the simplest and cheapest answer.

The creased parking ticket? At last, here was evidence of a family getting out and about - and running foul of the French police. As I had merely placed my car between two others on a street in the charming town of L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, I felt that I was in the right. That did not stop me looking over my shoulder for days afterwards. dreading that the owner of a pair of

size 48s would be feeling my collar. The well-thumbed guidebooks? Surely here was the main reason for going to Provence in the first place — the romance, the grandeur, the Mediterranean air? Well, up to a point. The only problem is that a tree-filled garden and a large swimming pool, the need to go and explore the Provencal hinterland does become slightly less pressing. But trips were made. First of all

to Menerbes, to see if the village immortalised in A Year In Provence had now become a sort of Peter Mayle theme park with hordes of eager tourists taking pictures of the seat where the Mayles actually sat down and enjoyed a cup of coffee.

In fact, there was no evidence of the famous author at all. You would have expected a copy of the paperback perhaps, now slightly dog-eared and faded by the sun. to be jostling for a place next to illustrated guides to the delights of



Provence in German and Dutch language editions, but no. Even his beloved baker's shop was devoid of any mention. The Mayle train, it seemed, had long gone.

If Menerbes and its companion hill villages, like Gordes, which looks more like a Hollywood film set for a medieval romance than anything a Paramount back lot could provide, lived up to expectations, then so did the Village des Bories just a mile or so away. Des Bories was basically the medieval forerunner of what we know today as the holiday village lots of little stone-built apartments. nice gardens and lovely views but built several hundreds of years before the eurocheque. They were allegedly constructed as secure hideaways for frightened villagers when the plague rampaged through the area. Whether it

evidence of survivors is scarce. Then there was Fontaine-de-Vaucluse A pretty hillside village with a picturesque bridge over the River Sorgue and the promise that on some days a vast underwater torrent would force itself out of the earth and cascade through the honey-coloured stone banks. Fine, except that on the day we were there the torrent was no more than a trickle, and the underwater spring a seemingly stagnant pool. Mind you, the frites from the roadside stall were superb. Best of

worked or not is doubtful, and any

all was having Avignon on the doorstep. It may be traffic-infested but there are still few cities to match its magnificence and its sense of history. Standing in front of the Palais des Papes is bound to leave

o if our friendly psychoana-lyst had stayed with me this far, then I hope he was impressed by the Calais-Avignon motorail ticket stub. Driving close to 700 miles down to Avignon and the Mediterranean coast with the family in the car has always seemed to me to be a holiday torture best avoided. I know that it is not really a cheap alternative, but look at it this way. You can relax, sit down, lie down, read your book, play with the children, play cards, enjoy a glass of wine, eat supper and - all the time - you're not driving, but your car will be there when you want it. Sleeping on a train still has that air of The Thirty Nine Steps about it.

#### FACT FILE

(01606 734437) incorporating Les Maisons De Chantale offers cottages, farmhouses and villas throughout France Prices range from £466 a week in high season (£256 low) for a cottage that can sleep four in Norma to £2.510 a week in high season (£1,109 low) for a villa that sleeps eight with a pool in Provence. Some cottage accommodation also offers sports and leisure facilities, a children's courier service and

French Railways Motorail routes run from Calais to Avignon, Nice, Narbonne, Toulouse and Brive. Prices per single journey range from £144 for a car and driver. Additional adult £46, child E23. Return fares from E266. Telephone EuroVillages for details, or telephone French Railways (0171-203 7000) to book direct.

Reading Perfume from Provence, by Winifred Fortescue (Black Swan, E6.99). Eating Out in Provence and the Cole d'Azur, by Edward Roch (Rosendale Press, £8.95).

Glimpses of the outskirts of Paris after midnight and the realisation when you wake up in the morning that you have left the grey Atlantic behind and from now on it is all

sunshine, sunflowers and rose. Mind you, that was nothing to the apparent danger a few years back when sleeping families were said to have been gassed in their compartments and then robbed of their valuables by in-train thieves. Happily this was more of an urban myth than fact since, from what I can remember, no victims were actually found. So were we a suitable case for treatment? On the basis that anyone who went to France with the exchange rate as it was needed their head examining. then we probably were. But that won't stop us catching the same complaint next year.

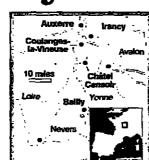
JOHN CLARKE

### Water, wine and wobbly bicycles

clocks along the Canal du Nivernais is as varied as the characters of the lock-keepers. In francy the church clock below the hillside vineyards strikes ten but across the water at Coulanges la-Vineuse it is already past the hour. Yet at Vincelles upstream there will still be a lew minutes to go.

But then precision time-keeping has little point in a slow-moving Burgundian world of ripening vines and cornfields, the mid-summer heart of La France Profonde. The villagers bring their black goats along the towpath just before dusk, riding behind them on bicycles and chiding the unwilling with long sticks. The farmers send out the combine harvesters when the sun comes up. Time has even less meaning for anyone who takes to the canal on board a cruiser. Normally the fastest thing in the water is a snake.

The waterway was planned for foresters to float rafts of logs from the Morvan and Bazois forests north to provide kindling for 19th-century Parisians. Completed in the 1840s. the 117-mile capal provides a



link between the valleys of the Seine and the Loire sweeping north before turning west-

wards to its full majesty. Built over 50 years, the canal horrows navigable stretches of the meandering Yonne river. In other places the canal runs straight as a die through the fields. One hundred and ten locks control the rise and fall of traffic. The lock-keepers lived in little stone houses with brass plaques over the door announcing the name and number of the lock.

By the start of the 20th century, the keepers had little to do as the canal fell into disuse. Firewood was no longer in demand and railways and motor vehicles had super-

canal passes through some of France's most gentle and graceful rural landscapes. It was the vision of amateur administrators in 1970s which led to the canal's renovation as a tourist attraction with a flourishing fleet of cruisers.

embarked, the British-built boats range from 29ft craft sleeping two adults and a child to a 42 footer sleeping up to eight. The boats come fully equipped with simple cooking facilities, storage and showers. The canal is often some distance from villages and towns but bicycles can be hired and kept on the cruiser roofs for expeditions inland.

A network of other canals and navigable rivers allow cruisers as far north as the Seine, south to Macon and Dijon. Our route took us north to Auxerre, the capital of Lower Burgundy with its splendid medieval streets and 12th-century Cathedral of St-Etienne, and back through fruit, wheat and wine-producing countryside.

Here the traditional vineyard cellars beneath village



Stewart Tendler keeps things shipshape on his cruise down the canals of Burgundy

cottages are homes to solid, lesser Burgundy vintages. You taste a few, strap the wine to your bicycles and make a perilous journey back to the hoat. At Bailly they produce Cremant de Bourgogne, a sparkling wine made with champagne methods, and thoughtfully provide a large landing stage so that travellers can moor and climb the hill to

the huge cellars. Like a quarter of all holidaymakers at Châtel Censoir, we were boating beginners. The prospect of guiding a 36-foot cruiser weighing six tons with two adults and a 12-year-old was daunting but the cruiser staff are always at the end of a telephone and ready to come

out for emergencies. The yard provides an hour of basic instruction from a skilled British member of staff, a captain's handbook and navigation guide. Then you are on your own, sedately setting out at a recommended

e ran aground within half an hour. The propeller clanged ominously on the bottom and we reversed, setting off great spumes of mud on the water. Two of the fenders on the stern were ripped to shreds along the side of the next lock gates to much muttering from the

five miles an hour.

It is easy to forget such

bruising moments when the cruiser glides effortlessly between the treelined banks and a breeze takes the sting off the heat. Shoals of tench hover in the water. An angler waves

from his seat. After a day or so

we managed admirably. The keepers are fonc-tionnaires who have the jobs for life and a wage of about £15,000 a year. Some rent out their posts to students. Others are true professionals and mines of information. Yet woebetide the cruiser that gets between a keeper and lunch. As we chugged towards one lock close to midday we watched a plump Madame lock up her gates, shift a shoulder in Gallic indifference

🖪 Stena (0990 707070) has a new Lynx fast link between Newhaven and Dieppe. Hoseasons Holidays and Connois (01502 500555) have 12 bases in France covering Burgundy. ne. Petit Saone Loire, Alsace-Lorraine and the South of France. Prices for cruiser hire range from £469 per week for the smallest boat sleeping two adults and a child in the low: to EL953 for an eight-berth craiser for a week in the high on. (A nine-berth cruiser is also available in the Canal du Midi in the south of France. Extras include bicycle hire and car parking. Security and fuel waivers or deposits are also remitted. More information from Hoseasons Holidays Abroad Ltd. Sunway House, Lowestoft NR32 2LW. Canal licences are provided by the cruiser company whi also supplies navigation charts. Moorings are usually free but harbours and marinas may charge. There is no fee for using

**BURGUNDY FACT FILE** 

the locks but it is common practice to tip the keepers if they do:

■ Reading: Through the French Canals, by Philip Bristow (Adlard Coles, £11.99). Watersteps Through France, by Bill Cooper (Adlard Coles, £9.99). Cruising French Waterways, by

Hugh McKnight (Adlard Coles. £25).

to our approach and climb into a Deux Chevaux to be whisked away to her repast. We tied up, far from a boulangerie and waited.

At Belombres a keeper in vest and baseball cap with a hint of Gerard Depardieu about him sat patiently with his wife, three dogs and two daughters waiting for us to arrive. Helpful, courteous and cheerful, he directed us to the nearest shops. Should we replace the battered lenders? He laughed. Our damaged bal-lons were nothing compared to the damage on some of the cruisers. Just outside Auxerre the keeper had the air of a university professor, spoke ex-cellent English and kept brochures on the best sights. His neighbour upstream sold us honey and a muscled young hulk kept a stock of wine for passing traffic in between weight-training exercises.

One evening we climbed out of the cruiser at Ecluse 70 at St Aignan, moored and walked over to the lock-keeper's cottage converted by an enterprising waterman into a restaurant. The cruiser hardly moved on its moorings. Our glasses clinked. The chicken chasseur sizzied. A clock chimed in the distance.

STEWART TENDLER ◆ The author was a guest of Stena Line, Hoseasons and Connoisseur Holidays.

## Le cross channel bargains ot '97. pay trips £49\* return; mini breaks £59\* return; economy returns £109. le Shuttle

### Middle East: Irrigation is changing the face of Dubai, says Leslie Thomas; plus Sandy Gall in Oman

# How green was my desert

glowed, so red that it appeared as if the whole horizon was on fire. The four-lane highway from Dubai ran as straight as roads can in these parts, across a wedge of the neighbouring state of Oman and out again, until it arrived, almost in silence, at the old frontier post at Hatta Fort.

The edge of the plain was encrusted with mountains. high and folded against each other, copper against the steadily blue sky. It was winter in the Gulf, the sun was bright, the air was as warm as the finest day of an English summer.

Two centuries ago. Hatta Fort stood eyeing the mountain passes for intrusive tribesmen. Now it sits at the centre of the long, peaceful valley, with the lort itself fallen but due for restoration. The clongated rifles of the Arab warriors of former times now mutely decorate the dining room of the local hotel.

It was the sort of place that prompted self-congratulation that you had discovered it. From its terrace you could look across the flat land to the Hajjar mountains with a sunny haze lying across everything. In the distance was the

Hatta Fort, one of Dubai's frontier posts 200 years ago



Some go into the desert to listen to the wind in the dunes

palace of the old sheikh, now dead, and still spoken of with reverence by the people. There were several mosques, rising like lighthouses against the browny plain. One stood up alone in the desert, another in useful comfort against a vil-

The concrete routes of Du-

from mile to mile — red, ochre, fawn - and from hour to hour, means different things to different people. Two and a half thousand participants were engaging in a "fun drive" over 100 kilometres of sand dunes that weekend. Their four-wheel drives cling to the slopes, going up or going down. Others take part in sand-skiing, which is warmer but grittier than doing it on

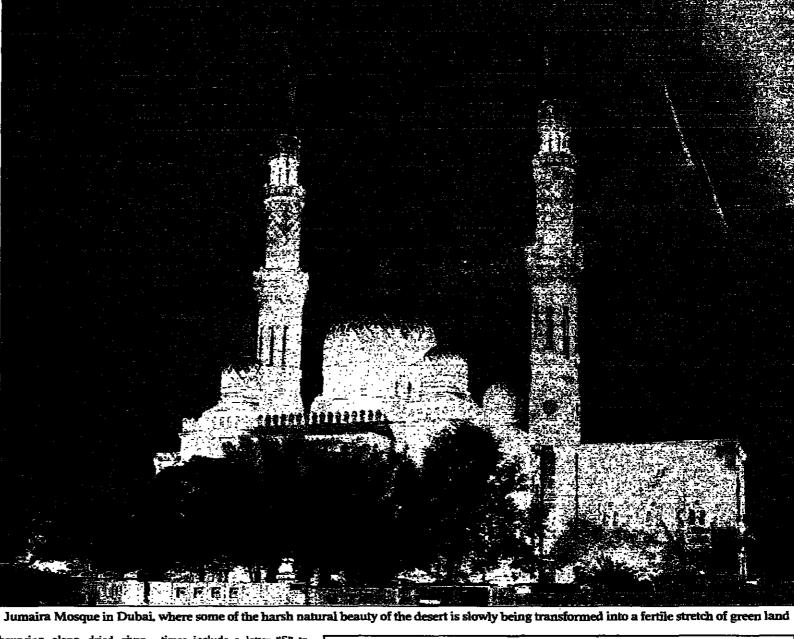
repair yard, and a third on its suburban garden.

In the mornings it was a toss-up which sounded first, the local cockerels or the local muezzin. The call to midday prayer (the times are published in the local newspapers) was not unmelodiously mingled with Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters sounding over the bar and swimming pool. Nights were magnificent, crammed with stars, and so still that the sound of a truck on the road to Muscat could be heard for miles.

Strange things are happen-ing in Dubai. In a country where water is as valuable as petrol, the desert is slowly being turned green. Irrigation on a huge scale is making the former date-grower able to leeks, potatoes. Millions of trees have appeared. There are urban parks and cultured golf courses. So many migrating birds now rest among the palms and fairways of the Emirates Golf Club that a resident bird-watcher has been appointed. One of the flamingos, however, expired recently after being struck by a

bai, particularly the road to Sheikh's palace, are massed with flowers. Harry Newitt, a 47-year-old Scottish construction manager who has worked in the Gulf for 22 years, said: "All this cultivation, this green, has brought about a micro-climate, When I came to these parts it was nothing but desert." He added, with a touch of boasting: These days we even have the

The desert, changing hue snow. Wadi-bashing means



bouncing along dried river courses in a robust vehicle, occasionally setting a gazelle to flight or being watched by a

club called the Hash-House Harriers go jogging in the miles of sand, some optimists even try to cycle through it, and some survey it loftily from a hot-air balloon. Then there are people who leave the city simply to listen and watch for the birds. In this lovely but desolate place live the laughing dove and the little green e-eater, the yellow-vented bal-bal and occasionally the

Other people go into the wilderness to walk or simply listen to the wind among the dunes. It can on occasions blow too fiercely. The Gulf times include a letter "S" to warn of flying sand. Lily, our driver, one of the thousands of workers from the Philippines (and from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka), had seen a typhoon in her own country. But a sandstorm is something different," she said. "How would you feel to see a huge cable drum bowling

along the road towards you?" As Lily poetically put it: The trees of the desert have been designed by the camel." It was true, for every tree sprouting in the sand had been neatly cropped to the extent of a camel's reach, so that in the wilderness they appeared as rounded as any in an omamental garden.

The camel is a beautiful animal and much prized, even loved. We photographed two kneeling placidly in the back of a Toyota pick-up. They had been to the vet's and their ears cosseted and protected. If you collide with a camel while

#### **DUBA!** FACT FILE

■ British Airways (0345 222111) flies to Dubai. Return tickets cost from £399.

■ Hatta Fort Hotel, Dubai: from £55 per day, plus £5 per cent service and 5 per cent tax. Jebel Ali Hotel Dubai: from £110 per day plus 15 per cent service and 5 per cent tax.

Reading: Culture Shock — United Arab Emirates, by Gina L. Crocetti (Kuperard, £7.95). Dubai: Tourist and Business Guide (Gedoprojects, £10). Middle East on a Shoestring (Lonely Planet, £13.99)

must pay for the camel; if you do not survive (and colliding with them is not recommended), then your family must pay. It does not matter if it was the camel's fault.

ally across mounded desert that is otherwise inaccessible to machine, man or beast. The bumpy, awesome journey (just over an hour by car) can take 16 undulating days by the

devour the unwary.

Leaving behind Muscat and

the Sultan's amazing palace,

we drove along an empty coast

between the spectacular Haiar

Mountains and the sea. At

Sur, where they still build

ocean-going dhows, the guest

house manager had arranged

a barbecue. It was wonderful

to dine outside, under the stars

and within sound of the sea. in

December. Next morning we

drove down to the harbour to

see the fishing dhows bringing

in their catch of 50lb silver

tuna, steel-blue kinglish and

10ft sharks, including several

weird-looking hammerheads.

From Sur we drove south-

west across a gravel plain,

skirting the northern edge of

the Wahiba Sands, which lie

150 miles east of the Empty

Ouarter. When Wilfred Thes-

iger travelled this way 50 years

ago, he noted that among the

Wahiba, a Bedu tribe, there

was no contrast between rich

and poor. Everyone lived sim-

ply in a black goar's-hair tent,

changed, but not entirely.

Camels still plod majestic-

The price of a racing camel (and racing them is a passion) starts at about £100,000 and a champion thoroughbred recently fetched £1.5 million. Races are run across eight miles of desert. There is no betting, although you can win a Land Rover for a complete

On the Indian Ocean beach two camels, Charles and Har-

along the sand. Charles was on duty when my wife took a ride. In attendance were not only the camel driver but a tall man of distinguished demeanour wearing an immaculately pressed safari suit and goldrimmed sunglasses. It was his task to clear up after the camels. Charles's droppings appeared small, almost dain-

### 605 SMACKINGLY 600D TWO CENTIE HOLIDA'S TO SOUTH AFRICA AND MAURITIUS





Until recently few travellers had visited Oman

### Lurking within tent

The Al Bustan Palace Hotel in Muscat, L Oman, is so grand it makes you want to apologise for not wearing your sword when you walk into the lobby. The ceiling is so lofty you could park a Boeing 747 beneath it. And, of course, everything is marble.

We spent a couple of nights in Muscat. on the edge of the warm blue Indian Ocean before setting off on our Dunes and Wadis trip - a wadi is a dry watercourse. In the past, few foreigners — except the SAS — were allowed into wilder parts of the country. But now, the adventurous traveller can trek almost anywhere across what is undoubspectacular countries in the Middle East.

Ours was a rather special safari, with its own conditions. We would drive only Land Rovers — two Discoveries and a Defender in fact; much of the trip would be off-road; and at least part of it would be across the eastern corner of the world's largest sand desert, the Rub' Al Khali, better known as the Empty Quarter. There were nine of us:

Edward and Leonie Packer, both veteran drivers from Devon; Douglas Ethridge from Seattle; Barbara Mc-Givern, an artist from Toronto: Dr Dick Morgan, physician in residence: John Carter, a Land Rover expert: Ib Kidde-Hansen from Denmark, an experienced desert driver and recovery expert: Major Robin Hitchcock, organiser-in-chief; and myself as unofficial historian.

Driving in the desert is a difficult art, even in a 4x4, except for the Bedu for whom any battered old Toyota pickup, preferably with bald tyres. will do. So next morning, our novice wadi-bashers headed for the nearest patch of desert. all dead keen to try their hand. Within five minutes they were all stuck. The reason? Not enough impulsion up the soft sand slopes. The rules are simple. Go for it. Hesitate and you are lost.

An hour and three recoveries later, everyone was beginning to grasp the subtleties of dune driving. But these were Sands, as the Bedu call them, have disappeared without baby dunes. Out there were materialised slowly and mysdesert monsters waiting to

teriously out of the haze. Then we drove a few miles into the desert to lunch in the black tent of Ali bin Genazil, a sheikh of the Beit Musan. A huge platter of kid and rice was carried in and we all gathered round, sitting crosslegged on the sand — oh, what agony -- but the rice was delicious.

fter lunch we set off through the dunes. heading north Thesiger's trail. Sheikh Ali twisting his way expertly through the sandy equivalent of a choppy sea. We slept at Haima, before striking back into the sands to the outpost of Ramlat Mughshin.

We continued north, parallel to the Saudi border and that night camped in the desert, at Bu Tabul. It was an enchanting evening; a low moon turned the dunes, so majestic in the day, into a pale ocean of sand, and the evening star shone with a brilliance you only see in the desert.

dressed in the same way and ate the same food. The demochaps the most exciting. Up racy of the desert which apearly, we left the dunes behind pealed to Thesiger has and entered the great quicksands which the Bedu call the We had now crossed half the Umm as Samim, or Mother of country and the next day we Poison. They used to give these headed towards the Empty salt flats a wide berth - whole Quarter. The pink wall of the raiding parties are said to

The following day was per-

CHRISTINA OSBORI

SAS fought a long, tough battle in the wind and mist in

safely by "floating road" across what look like snow-

fields. But stick to the road.

Recently an oil company lost

Emerging from the Umm as

Samim, we overnighted at

Nizwa, and next day drove up

the Jebel Akhdar. Oman's

highest mountain, where the

an 85-ton buildozer here.

1959. Taunted by the rebels - "Come up and fight Johnny". the SAS eventually stormed the rebels' stronghold after a daring nightime assault. The views from the top are magnificent but don't look down if you suffer from vertigo. The sheer drop from the summit to the bottom of the Grand Canyon - almost as impressive as its namesake in Arizona — is 3.000 feet. On our last day, some of us

visited the old fort of Jabrin. beautifully restored and with a wonderful view of the Jebel. On the second floor the guide pointed to a small room. This was where the Imam

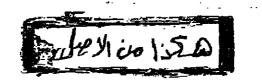
kept his horse." "Here?" I said in surprise.

"He never knew when he had to make a quick escape." They may have lived in splendour, these Arab princes. but they never knew how long

FACT FILE Gulf Air (0171-408 1717) flies daily from Heathroy to Muscat from £399 return. British Airways (0345 222111) flights from £769. The five-star Al Bustan Palace in Muscat (UK reservations 0181-847 3711) charges from £77 per person for a double room. The four-star Gulf Hotel in Qurum, Muscat (Oman 96 856 0100) has double rooms from £41.

TCA Holidays (61242 224482) arranges tailor-made trips including wadi-A visa is essential. Apply to the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman, 167 Queen's Gate, London SW7

5HE (0171-589 2840).

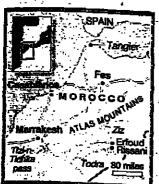


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Morocco: Mud, fossils, French Foreign Legion forts and Schubert on an adventure holiday for softies

## Saharan tales of the unexpected



rained all the way from the Atlas Mountains to the Sahara. The Gazelle River - the Ziz - had turned carnivorous. It was now a goat-devouring torrent across the road south. We climbed out of the bus and joined wool-wrapped Berbers and steaming mules in con-templation of our predica-ment. Enterprising children materialised out of the drizzle to sell us woven palm-leaf camels. Saleh. our laconic driver muttered: This typical Morocco - nothing happen, nothing happen, then everything happen."

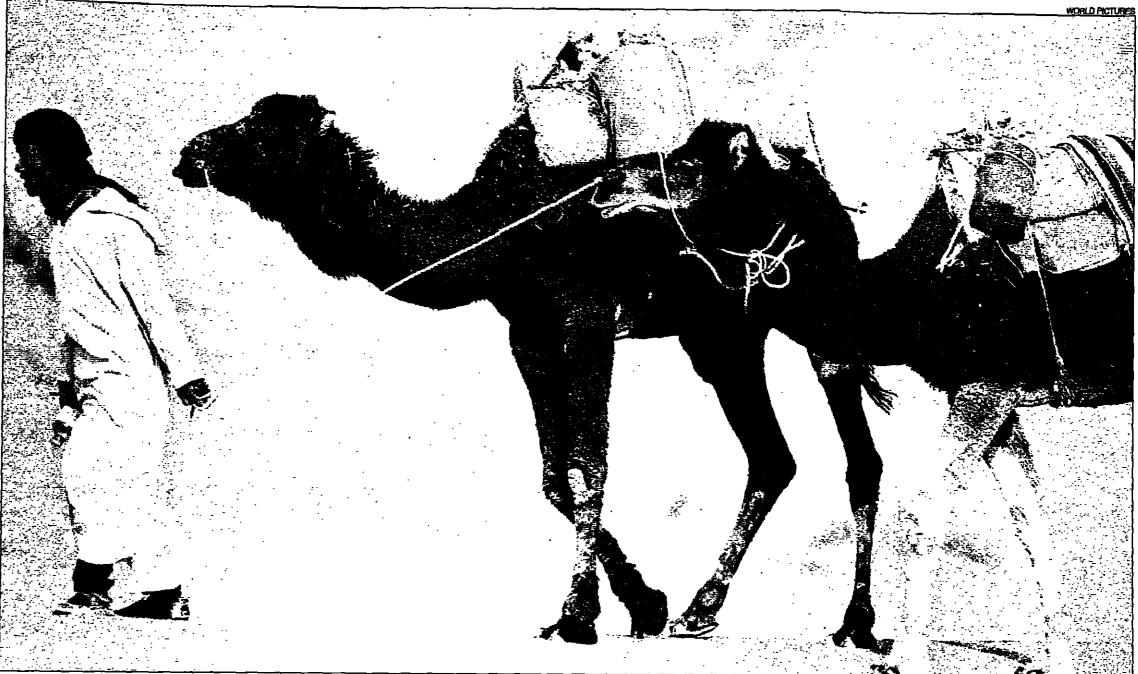
Why (I couldn't help wondering) did things have to happen around dinner time? This was, after all, a "soft" adventure holiday, and I had assumed that the main difference between hard and soft tourism was that on the latter the meals would be on time. And yet here we were having our dinner schedule disrupted by nature for the second day in a row. Mud had been the culprit yesterday. That evening's tent-ground had become a squelch-zone reminiscent of a forward position from the First World War.

It might make us feel better to know, ventured our tour leader. Alan, as we wolfed a late collation of lentils and bread and jam with cocoa, that this had been the first rain in the area for 15 years.

If proof were needed that rain was indeed a rare event this far south of the Middle Atlas ranges, there were the French Foreign Legion's mud forts from the 1920s and the Alawhite sultans' scattered mud-wall settlements, all apparently dissolving into the landscape beside the old caravan route to Erfoud and Rissani. The Foreign Legion was still getting involved in tribal fights here as late as the

take place in the gift shops. My guide book was gloomy on the subject of Rissani: "It's the hustlers that you will remember this hot, dusty place by. They outdo even those of Marrakesh." Not true. There was not a smidgen of hot dust to be seen, only mud - and the town's predictable "Saharan" jewellery emporium. Besides, found this little oasis town

unexpectedly charming. The salesman at the ethnic jewellery shop wore Gucci loafers under his tribal robe and let slip that he likes skiing a: Steamboat Springs in Colorado. It might have been his way of excusing such labulous prices. But at the little market outside, which probably had no: changed since Rissani was on the slave and ivory route, I was able to buy a handful of musk for less than El. And I



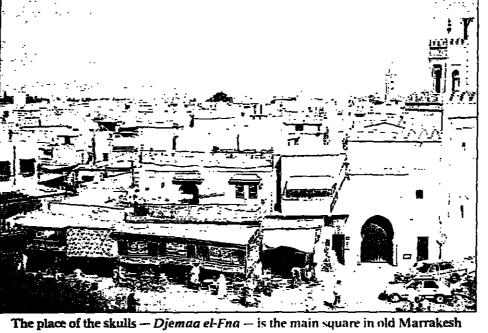
The tribesmen of the Atlas mountains, who only a generation or so ago made a living by cutting travellers' throats on the old caravan routes, now earn their keep by selling fossils to tourists

still believe that this intriguing substance - which my dictionary accurately described as odiferous and reddishbrown" (and then went on to talk about it being a "secretion of the gland of a male deer") — will turn out to be more useful than for making next door's cat get stroppy with my

"Real" Saharan weather was reinstated the next day when we all got up in time to greet a cloudless dawn and climb into 4x4 vehicles to visit the extraordinary dunes of Erg occo," said Saleh mournfully looking at the sky where solid night before stars. Out of the mist from the direction of Merzouga loomed the Jeeps of

rival adventure tours. The dunes are a Manhattansized sand sculpture placed by the wind on the level, stony Sahara. You can breakfast at the Café de Sud and listen to the old man who sits in the doorway and impassively strums what looks like a dead cow with strings. Then you

can set off up the nearest dune. It's a long way from one dune to the next. What at first looks like a shed-sized hillock turns out, on closer acquainrance, to be as big as two city blocks. Just as you are realising that all you can see is more dunes in every direction. and that you have no idea where the Jeep is, a blue-robed



figure, swathed to the eyes. will appear leading a camel and say: "Want a ride.

I can resist riding a camel. but never pass up a fossil. of which the camel-men keep large selections to conjure out of their diellahas Just over 1) was not bad, I think, for two exquisite little nautili from 50 million years ago. The Sahara's fossil deposits have proved a boon, not to say a boom. Every roadside stall

and tourist shop has a pile or two of Jurassic souvenirs. Tribesmen of the Atlas such as the Air Hadaidou and Air Atta - who only a generation: or so ago made a living by curing travellers' throats have furned instead to paleontology. In the far away souks of Fes or Casablanca, touts sidle up to you and hiss. Hey, I give good ammonite. Maybe-

you like trilobite" My camel-operative told me, in a disarming burst of

Taureg candour as I was paying for the fossils, that personally he regarded camels. as bottom-numbing, grudgebecome dandruff factories. His tavourite mode of transport, and the way he came to work each morning, was by hierele "I hide hike behind dune so nobody steal." he said.

Encountering the unexpected seems to be a typical Moroccan experience, After a day s drive north and west into a craggy landscape framed by

#### FACT FILE

■ Explore Worldwide. Frederick Street, Aldershot, Hampshire GUII ILQ (01252 319448) offers four tours to Morocco Imperial Cities and Desert, Berbers of the Anti-Atlas, On Foot to Isolated in the Atlas. Prices start at £435 for the 15-day winter) Atlas trek and include flights, most

Board (0171-437 ()073).

■ Reading: Morocco
That Was, by Walter Harris
(Eland, £8.99) A Year in Marrakesh, by Peter Mayne (Eland, £8.99). Morocco (Rough Guides, £9.99). By Bus To The Sahara, by Gordon West (Black Swan, £6.99).

white peaks, we trudged up the swollen stream hed in the bottom of the 300 metre deep Todra Gorge to our milesfrom-anywhere hotel, the Yasmina - as Elizabeth Schwarzkopf's version of Schubert's Du bist die Ruh' bounced off the cliffs around us. Next was Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. "People leave all kinds of tapes." explained Mohammad, one of the two laid-back

Bouyakhf brothers who run

the Yasmina. "We put the speakers on the balcony so we get good reverb." He claimed that the crag martins, ground squirrels and eagles enjoyed it.

Later that evening Bryce Reynard, forestry development officer for Inverness (who, with his wife and daughter, was enjoying his first organised adventure holiday). was going through Mohamfolks," he said. "There aren't any Jimmy Shand tapes."

ate continued to be

ing) when we arrived at our last overnight stop before crossing the mountains to Marrakesh and home, the Berber settlement of Air Benhadou. Saleh and the waiter. the boy cook and the woman washer-up at the modest caravanserai where we had fled from yet more rain, sang, danced and drummed for us. It was heart-rending, foottapping stuff, more African than Arabian, but unmistakably the great progenitor of flamenco. It was impossible

not to bop.

The brown of sand, stone and mud walls (against which the primary colours of Moroccan tribal costumes flare) gave way to terraced wheat fields, nut trees and then to cold slopes of spruce and finally to snow-covered rocks as our bus climbed through the Tizi n Tichka Pass. Tough-looking

mountain men, whose fathers were the last tribal people to be "pacified" by French forces, looked us in the eye and held out fossils and mantelpiece knicknackery every time we stopped for photographs.

The place of the skulls Diemaa el-Fna, the main square in the heart of the old city of Marrakesh - seemed an appropriate place from which to take an overview of Morocco. I emerged into it from the alleyways of the great souk clutching new pink slippers and a spruce box. Back there I had left before I coul be pressured into buying dried iridescent beetles that the salesman assured me would

In the great square, old men storytellers stood on boxes and, with hypnotic skill, drew crowds who had heard the same story many times before. Tumblers tumbled. Outrageously costumed water-sellers demanded fees just to be looked at. Naptha flares lit up piles of steaming snails and gruesome, ready-to-eat sheep's heads. A persuasive current of drumming started up some-where and snake-charmers made earwax-shifting shrieks with their reed pipes.

Despite our large presence here, we tourists had, in some magical way, disappeared.

BILL POWELL The author was a guest of

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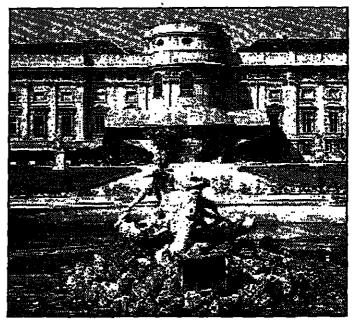
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Britain: Unusual breaks let you enjoy life (slowly) in an old caravan, or discover the novel in you

# Just a gypsy life for me

t two miles an hour even the walkers overtake you. and cyclists whiz past in a blur. As for cars, well, they just have to slow down and wait for you to let them pass. Most drivers, to my surprise, show patience and courtesy - they smile and wave, and a few even stop to take our picture as if it is they who are on holiday and not us. In August in the Cotswolds, they probably are.

We were travelling in a horse drawn caravan for a week, my wife Kate and myself and our son Adam, a week short of his first birthday. Completing the party was Dolly, a twentysomething Irish mare who was destined for the knackers' yard until she was rescued from a ferry in Liverpool. Docile, friendly and hard-working, she earns her keep by leading tourists around a 50-mile circuit of the southern Cotswolds.

"How will you manage the horse?" friends asked. The short answer is you don't have to. Richard and Liz Fayle, the owners, spend the first afternoon teaching you to drive and come out each morning and evening to harness up and settle down. "You don't have to touch the horse all week if you don't want to," Liz said. But of course most people do; grooming and tacking-up is all part of the fun. Even Adam, by the end of the week, was stroking Dolly, feeding her apples and trying to pronounce her name.

The caravan was a gaily painted bowtop as used traditionally by Gypsies. Luxury it is not. Mod cons consist of a gas stove, weak lights powered by a car battery, and a chemical toilet in the boot. (We did not use this, because you have access to flush toilets most nights and become adept at controlling

your timing.)
If your idea of a cheap hotel is one that does not provide a soft dressing gown, forget it. But if you think washing out of doors, clean-ing your teeth by moonlight and sleeping under canvas listening to the rain all add to the romance of a holiday, you will love it.

The caravan sleeps four - in theory, at least — but if we had had

#### FACT FILE

Uley Carriage Hire, Weavers Workshops, The Street, Uley, Dursle Gloucestershire GLI 5TB (01453 860288). A week's caravan hire, with full backup support, costs from £290 in April to £435 in July

Pubs on the Cotswold holiday: The Plough at Crudwell for homemade pies and cheap Oakhill bitter; the Carpenter's Arms, Sherston, for fresh fish from Cornwall.

Other companies offering horse-drawn caravan holidays include: Acom Activities (01432 830083): a week in Wales. May to September, for £475 per caravan. Bowland Bowtops (01729 840382): a week in the Yorkshire Dales from April to October for £400 per caravan. Slatterys (0800 515900): a week in southwest Ireland from £250 to £500 per caravan, plus travel to Ireland. Ît also offers allinclusive packages.

to share with another couple I doubt whether we would have stayed on speaking terms. Smaller than the average bathroom, it manages to become bedroom, sitting room, kitchen and car in one. The ingenious design finds space for wardrobes, water tank, dining table, book racks and dried flowers plus the mystery item on the inventory: "Octopuses, various."

Where do you stay at night?" was a common question. We was a common question. We stopped mostly on farms, with grazing for Dolly and tap water for us, and every other night the luxury of a shower. The first stop, at Chavenage Green, near Tetbury, Gloucestershire, was the most remote and romantic; deep among



On the hoof with dependable Dolly, discovering pretty villages on a 50-mile circuit of the southern Cotswolds. The caravan was a bowtop, used traditionally by Gypsies

with juggernauts thundering past,

the trees, I fell asleep to what I imagined was the cry of a fox.

At Shorncote, near Cirencester, we slept beneath (what else?) a horse-chestnut tree on a farm selling freerange eggs: at Little Somerford in Wiltshire, we stayed in the yard of a blacksmith's workshop,

where Hector Cole makes the world's best medieval-style arrowheads. This was the only stop without a nearby pub. but cheese and chianti, drunk out of plastic beakers on the wagon steps, were more than acceptable substitutes.

We slept beneath a horsechestnut

 travelling slowly, without pressure, with one of us at the reins and the other on foot carrying Adam and keeping an eye out for cars. The longest day was 11 miles, so we could start late, stop for a picnic and still take our time. Most of the route followed quiet country lanes where a caravan takes up the width

of the road; half a mile on the A429,

papers each morning.

the holiday was the

thrill of the open road

The best thing about

came as quite a shock. Fayles will deliver The view from the driver's seat, bread, milk and news-

of meadows and hedges and drystone walls, and the looks on the faces of tourists as we passed, were enough to make everything else worthwhile. For a week we were enclosed in our own small world, with a faithful horse for company and our possessions in a few boxes, and nothing to do but eat, sleep and move slowly on to the next stop.

By the end of the week I was so relaxed that I felt I could live like that for ever. Well, until winter.

TONY KELLY The author was a guest of Uley



Baby on board: Adam, at II months, enjoyed his life on the road

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### Booked in for a write-up

exter, the tramp, wears yellow fluorescent swimming goggles to the pub; Richard has the stigmata on his private parts: a Lothario runs personal transformation courses and takes advantage of his students; an ageing hippy dreams of being Che Guevara in the Bolivian jungle. These were some of the characters I met on a week-long creative writing course run by the Arvon Foundation at Lumb Bank, an 18th-century farmhouse in the Yorkshire moors.

We were there, 16 students and two tutors, because we all have a novel in us — or thought we had. On the evidence of the week, with a little careful nurturing, most people do have a tale worth telling. The Arvon Foundation has

three centres which offer the chance to work creatively away from routine life and to enjoy the stimulation of being with other writers. Patrons, from Beryl Bainbridge to Salman Rushdie, read like a very long Booker shortlist. Many offer generous financial support, seeing Arvon as an opportunity to give something back to writing's grass roots.

Aspiring authors attend for many different reasons. All they have in common is a love of words. For some it is about getting away from families or demanding jobs and finding the space to write. At Lumb Bank, the former home of Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath, eight small writing sheds with views across the valley offer a stimulating change of working

For others it is a more social occasion, a rare opportunity to sit into the small hours talking books with people who share the same interests. "Most people's eyes glaze over when I



say I am writing a novel," a mother of three said. "Here everyone is genuinely interested." For others it may be a form of therapy. Many first novels are thinly disguised autobiography and my fellow students swiftly worked out that mine was no exception.

Some bring completed novels with them and enjoy trying out their work on a captive audience. Others are seeking advice on how to structure a plot. Some will have already published short stories and poems while others will have only recently started writing. Although attenders are overwhelmingly white and middleclass, Arvon is trying hard to address this imbalance and a range of grants and bursaries are available to those on low

The tutors are published writers and skilled communicators. Often their role is simply to listen and encourhope most people take away with them," said Elspeth Barker, author of the award-winning O Caledonia and one of the tutors during the week I spent at Lumb Bank. "Most people can write a bit and have good ideas but don't know how to take it forward."

The mornings are usually spent in group work-shops on exercises set by the tutors, although some prefer to find their own space to concentrate on work already in progress. In an exercise on dialogue I had to write a morning-after conversation between a stockbroker and his corkscrew (easier than it sounds once you throw in a few cheap lines such as "I don't know who is more wisted" and "screw you"). Other exercises explored description and character development.

Afternoons are spent in oneage. Confidence is what we to-one tutorials. Talking a plot novelist can clarify things in an amazingly short space of time. In one session with Eispeth Barker, my own effort developed a fresh introduction and a different ending. Thankfully some of the chapters in the middle remained usable.

The evenings are spent in the wonderfully old-fashioned pastime of reading aloud. The theme varies but the last night traditionally is a showcase for work produced during the week. There was a guessing game throughout the course as to who would be the first to read a sex scene aloud. We had to wait until the last evening and in the end it was a surprise. Most had bet on it

If all this bookishness sounds a bit earnest, do not believe it. There were more comic turns on display in the workshops than on the Edin-burgh Fringe.

Most students also took advantage of some of the best walking country in Britain. though when Barbara Trapido, our other tutor, learnt that l had been on a three-hour hike over Hardcastle Crags she told me: "You'll never get a novel written like that." I stick to my claim that fresh air is a great aid to the creative flow. As to "the novel", it will be brilliant when I have finished rewriting the beginning and the end, changed most of the characters and restructured the plot. At least a week on an

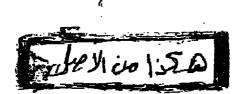
confidence that I can do it. NIGEL WILLAMSON Details of courses from the Arvon Foundation. Totleigh Barton, Sheepwash, Beaworthy. Devon EX21 SNS (01409 231338). From April courses cost £290 a week, including food, tuition and

Arvon course has given me



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### Skiing: To the horror of resort bosses, Doug Sager dispels the myth that there is no off-piste skiing in America

## Out of bounds at fearful Vail

Pail's vice-president blanched whiter than the foot of freshly fallen powder we'd just carved up to the boundary ropes separating the Colorado resort's carpet-smooth slopes from the Rocky Mountain wilderness beckoning below. In front of us was an open gate and untracked undulating forested terrain all the way down

to the valley town of Minturn. Having been explicitly informed by the Ski Safety Patrol that the route was safe, I suggested making the descent. Horror and fear flashed across faces, "No., Never... Not in a million years," the VP

and his minions averred. Knees knocking in fright — terrified as much by the public relations disaster of allowing foreign journalists outside Vail's ultra-safe patrolled perimeter as by thoughts that we might insist she accompany us. a woman media aide could only mumble "mineshafts" as an excuse. "Illegal," the VP mouthed in a whisper. Unfortunately for them, I

had spent the previous day with the resort's safety patrol learning what is and is not legal to ski, an issue nowhere more crucial than at Vail. It is America's favourite resort and the best by far for intermediate skiers, because it is the "offinternational market which Vail and Beaver Creek are most interested in wooing.

Where Aspen is see-me celebrities from California. Vail is more east coast, and corporate. Bagels and blintzes are never more than a pushcart — albeit one disguised as a stagecoach away. And the clientele is not without sarcasm. "A motorway runs through it." a New Yorker suggested as a working title for this article, contrasting the sentimental film and book A River Runs Through It with the roadway reality of Vail's Interstate 70.

But what could be more practical, or typically American? The interstate allows easy access to Denver, 100 miles away, and quick transfers from Eagle Airport, 35 miles. It also links Vail's skiing to Beaver Creek, 12 miles down the road on fast, but not free. shuttle buses.

Transport on the mountain is equally efficient. Vail boosting what was already North America's largest network of recently opened Lionshead gondola. Each sit-down cabin. it and heated for night use. features rosewood inlay handcrafted by Swiss monks.

The resort makes no apologies for operating on the principle "bigger means better". In its quest to be all things to all skiers, Vail, already incorporating Beaver Creek and tiny Arnwhead, has merged with the Summit County resorts of Keystone and Breckenridge, giants in their own rights, to form what will be a skipass area rivalling France's Trois Vallees, with which Summit County is rwinned in a skinass accord. One result of the merger is

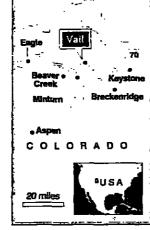
the first shuttle transport between Vail and Summit County, \$5 for the 30-minute trip. Part of the \$150 million (£94 million) improvement is the huge Eagle's Nest complex on



Snowboarders drool over the challenge of Vail's Back Bowls

#### FACT FILE

■ Continental Airlines (0800 776-164) has 18 flights a week from Gatwick to Denver, via Houston or Newark, with return fares starting from £489. ■ The Lodge at Vail (0181-568 \$366) offers a full range of skiing nner to heliskiing with B&B starting at £120 per person sharing a double room.



the top of Vail Mountain. where one of the world's biggest snowboard terrain parks, an ice-skating rink and open at night. Future expansion is geared towards the offpiste and adventure terrain Vail's increasingly international clientele demand: 2.000 wilderness acres in the Category Three sector opposite China Bowl.

Expansion is also under way in Vail Village, where overnight capacity is a modest 12,000 skiers, about a third the number who crowd the pistes of Meribel or Verbier. Vail's premier hotel is the Lodge at Vail, an Orient Express hotel and the only one in the village which boasts skiing to and from the door. A \$12 million International Wing is due to open next season. High-rollers pay up to \$3 million to buy private flats at the top of the Lodge. Hotel rooms on the lower floors are furnished in

Breakfast at the Lodge is the best in Vail. But it is the enthusiastic yet discreet ser-

vice, seldom successfully realised in America, which gives the Lodge the cachet of a European grand hotel.

No matter how good the service, British skiers often complain that American on-piste skiing is anodyne. Piste skiing is strictly patrolled, with go-slow zones and slopes closed by ropes across their entrances, even when ava-lanche risk is minimal. There is no off-piste skiing in America" and "You'll go to jail if you ski under the ropes" are two frequent myths Europeans use to decry the lack of adventure in American skiing. Most Americans share these mis-

As I learnt from my day skiing with the safety patrol. the truth is that "off-piste" skiing, as understood in the Alps, does exist in spades, or at least in the double black diamonds Americans use to mark such terrain on their piste maps, inside resort boundaries, Vail's Back Bowls are superb examples.

ix miles wide and encompassing chutes and dropoffs snowboarders droot over. as well as much milder steeps, the Back Bowls are Vail's bid for skier cred, so important that the resort has registered the name as a trademark. Careful not to get too hard core, however, Vail grooms and virtually anyone can negotiate the Silk Road, an intermediate trail sweeping the periphery of the Back Bowls from top to bottom.

Most Americans believe. wrongly, that going "out of bounds" is illegal and insanely dangerous. By "out of bounds", an American means leaving official resort perimeters behind and skiing "the backcountry". Far from being illegal, specific provision for this kind of skiing is made by resort safety personnel working in conjunction with the

relevant forest service. Vail's legal access to out of bounds backcountry skiing is in the form of several open gaps, called backcountry gates", in the perimeter rope. Signs warn that you are leaving the resort, that hazards exist and that you exit at your own risk. That not one American in a thousand relishes such risk was amply



which our Vail minders watched as I took off with two companions, one a knowledge-Minturn Mile.

The powder was soft and deep, the pitch thrilling without inducing concern. In fact, it was everyday off-piste skiing in the Alps. What made it special was finding such an out-of-bounds experience in Vail of all places. Not that we were the first.

Kicking off the skis down in Minturn, where mobile homes, wooden shacks and rusting pickup trucks threw some welcome grit into the Vail vacation experience, we pushed through the doors of the Minturn Saloon to find that a far tougher type had beaten us to it: John Wayne. whose memorabilia and photos are all over the saloon. The Duke may have skied in Vail but, like real men, he made his way over the hills to Minmen to do his drinking.

• The author was a guest of Continental Airlines and the

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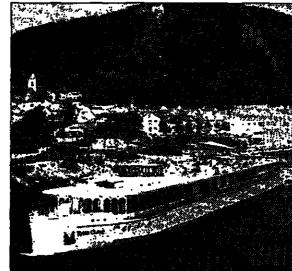
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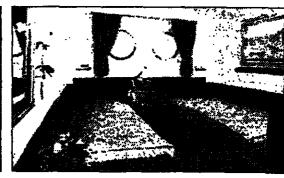
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DAY 4 Passau-Linz Depart in the late morning to the Austrian city of Linz Arrive in the late afternoच्या स्थले moor oversight.

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#### **WORD WATCHING**

Answers from page 25 IMAGO (c) The final and perfect stage of an insect after it has gone through all of its metamorphoses. For example, a butter-fly, "Aha!" you evclaim, as

1

your sister at last emerges

from the bathroom after more than an hour, fully decorated and ready to receive her latest hostriend. "the ultimate

VELLICATE

(a) To twitch or cause to twitch.

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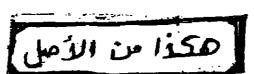
From the Latin vellere to tug violently, to pluck (eg hairs).

#### DELTIOLOGY

(c) The collecting of postcards as a hobby. "In support of my application and cv for the post of Human Resources Manager. I should like to mention my skills in ergonomics, comparative statistics and deltiology."

(a) A hoggy place, especially one that quakes under foot, from the Old English. Shortened version of quagmire. Related to quake, earthquake and Quaker. Jamie, come here this minute and clean up your room! Do you realise that the area around and under your bed is pure quag?"





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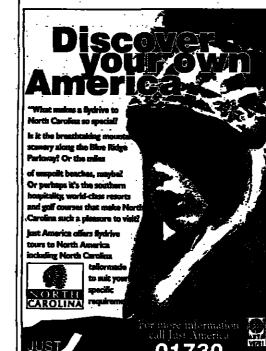
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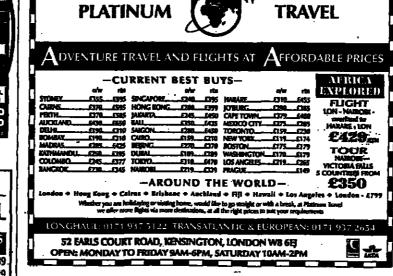










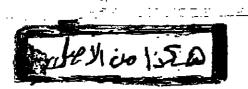


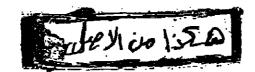
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#### **Festive** flyaways

UNUSUAL and colourful Easter celebrations in Valencia include the Semana Santa Marinera, when small objects broken throughout the year are hurled out of windows on Easter Sunday as a symbol of renovation. There are also palm leaf processions in Elche and Alicante on Palm Sunday (March 23), tamborada (drum) performances in Alcora and processions in Orihuela. It is traditional to picnic on Easter Sunday, with Mona de Pascara cake. Mundi Color (0171-828 6021) offers two-night B&B breaks for £321 to Alicante, and £334 to Valencia.

#### Swanning off

A MEDITERRANEAN cruise by Swan Hellenic (0171-800 2200) looks at early Christianity in Jerusalem and Galilee and Roman influences in Lebanon, with visits to the Crusader castle built by the Knights of St John in Cyprus on Good Friday, and Byblos, reputedly the oldest city in the world, on Easter Monday. Classical and Islamic lecturers and Egyptologists accompany the cruise, as well as the ornithologist Jeffrey Boswell to identify black kites over the Pyramids and eagles in the desert. The 15-day cruise costs from £2,760 all-inclusive.

#### Dutch treat

TEMPTING city breaks from Kirker Holidays (0171-231 3333) include two nights in Amsterdam, staying at the five-star Grand Amsterdam, formerly the city's town hall where a Roux brothers brasserie and an indoor pool are among the facilities. Prices — £356 by air. £338 by Eurostar — cover transfers, hotel and Dutch breakfast. a canal cruise and guide books. Also offered, three nights for the price of two to Paris (£393 by air, £366 by Eurostar), staying at the de luxe Hotel Scribe, near the Opera, whose Michelin-starred restaurant serves one of the best full breakfasts in Paris. Breaks in Bologna and Brussels are from £472 and £225 respectively.

#### Alpine air

SPRING flowers, walking, fishing and biking are among the attractions of an Easter break in the mountains around Slovenia's chocolate-box Lake Bled, where the former Yugoslav royal family and, later, Tito holed up in the summer. Slovenija Pursuits (0)763 \$526-46) offers a week's half board for £357 (£245 for children under ten; at the Pri Biscu farmhouse in Zasin, where the children can help



Hooded celebrants: one of the many colourful Semana Santa processions held throughout Spain over Easter.

the farmer with milking and feeding the livestock. Other farms and selfcatering flats also available.

#### Fat chance

A HEALTHY three-night break at the Thermal Hotel on the Danube island of Margitsziget in Hungary is offered by Thermalia Travel (0171-483 1898) for E324, including flights, and B&B. The hotel has a range of health and fitness treatments, but beware... the basic ingredients of Hungarian cook-ing are cream, butter and goose fat.

#### Provençal trek

WALKING tours on easy-to-follow paths from the Alpes du Sud to the Plateau de Valensole are offered by Sherpa Expeditions (0181-577 2717). Scenery en route includes Alpine terrain, medieval villages and the Grand Canyon de Verdon with its 1,500ft cliffs. Overnight stops are in Moustiers and St Andre, The cost of £617 covers flights, seven nights half board and daily luggage transfers.

#### Madeira cake

THE GRAND dame of Madeira, Reid's Palace Hotel (reservations share their parents' room (50 per cent otherwise). Activities include windsurfing, sailing lessons, films and aerobics for six to 12-year-olds, and swimming lessons, treasure hunts, tennis and pastry-making with the sous chef for the three to fives. Easter rates start from £133 a night, with flights from £300.

#### Island haven

THREE-night breaks to Guernsey from Premier Holidays (01223 516000), departing March 28 and staying at the Duke of Normandie Hotel, St Peter Port, cost from £234 per person with flights and B&B.

#### Fare do's

A RANGE of low cost fares are offered by Campus Travel (0171-730 3402) for students and under-26s "to help blow your student loan". Return fares to Zurich are from 5%. Amsterdam 507. Milan 5134 and Cairo 5256 — exclusive of tax.

#### Snow babes

PARENTS can enjoy an Easter crosscountry skiing break at Venabu in Norway with Headwater (0100)

gramme of snow-hole digging, an expedition with camp-fire cooking. sledding, ski-jump competitions and ski treasure hunts. The price for a

week departing on March 22 is £798

#### Single minded

(£478 for under 12s).

THREE DAYS of non-stop action abseiling, climbing, canoeing down the River Wye and a gorge adventure day in the waterfall country south of the Brecon Beacons — are offered by Acurn Activities (01432 830083) at Easter for single holidaymakers. The price, £260, includes half board at the 18th-century Dragon Hotel in Crickhowell, transport to and from the activities and packed lunches.

#### French leave

VILLA holidays are offered by Drive France (0181-395 8888) in the Dor-dogne, the Languedoc and Brittany, Based on six people sharing, a week in the Languedoc costs from £38 per person, including the the cost of lerry crossings.

#### Correction

The telephone numbers for Italian Cookery Weeks, described in Week-0171-805 5059), offers families free 486991 in the knowledge that the end Travel last week, are 0181-208 Easter stays for the under 12s if they children will have their own pro-

### Non-nerd's guide to Internet travel

Surfing the Worldwide Web can answer most of your

For those unwilling to foot

the bill for computer, modem,

service provider, phone bills

and the technical problems of home Internet, there is the

option of using the office

connection, or paying about £6 an hour at a local Cybercafé.

Knowing that I would be

spending an unwelcome five

hours stopover at Singapore

airport last year, I looked it up

on the Internet to see what

might be in store for me. I used

Yahoo, the best-known Inter-net search engine: an electro-

nic Yellow Pages of Web sites. A search for Singapore airport

told me the place was called

Changi. A search for Changi

yielded a Web site devoted to

the airport. After scanning the

information, I found what I

wanted — a rooftop bar and

to online discussion forums,

"Usenet groups"; about 14,000 of them ranging from higher

mathematics to cooking. If the

search engines do not turn un

The Web also contains links

swimming pool. Perfect.

holiday questions - and save you money on fares

lanning a journey is part of the travel experience, and a sense of security comes from being well pre-pared. The usual solution is to read newspaper travel sections or buy a guide book, but other people will have the same information and be there to greet you when you arrive at that out-of-the-way temple, restaurant or street market.

In America, where 30 per cent of the population are already online, the Internet Worldwide Web has emerged as the ultimate travel guide. Almost every destination on Earth gets a mention. And those places and activities that do not yet have a Web site can be discussed in hundreds of online forums.

The Web is a patchwork of multimedia publishing, some of it from large, well-estab-lished companies such as Time-Life, Grolier and News International, publishers of The Times which provides week-by-week travel features and facts going back to January 1996. But a huge input comes from small companies. university departments and private enthusiasts.

The larger content-providers offer mainstream travel guides, featuring leading hotels, flights, tours and destinations. The smaller publishers. and the self-publicists, cover everything else - off-beat destinations, tiny restaurants and B&Bs that appear in no other guide books.

Surfing the lesser known names on the Web, such as the Knowhere guide to the UK is like asking a stranger in the street to recommend a good local restaurant.

The most compelling attraction of the Web is that it can save you money. There are numerous sites specialising in low fares, including Campus Travel, which is aimed at young people and students and will respond with a fare quote for a complex itinerary. Cyber Air Brokers claims it will undercut the published fare "from anywhere to anywhere - by 50 per cent".

the destination you are looking for, the Usenet groups are the next stop.

Before making a trip to Trivandrum in Kerala, southern India, I posted messages in the "alt.culture.kerala" group. Most of the regular participants were former residents now living in the West, but they put me in touch with friends in Kovalum so that I saw the resort through the eyes of locals rather than as a complete outsider.

The best travel Web sites are American. Expedia, owned by the Microsoft Corporation, has a fare-finder service allowing American-based users to state a planned itinerary and receive an e-mail with the latest lowest fare to the destination. Twenty-four hours after signing on, an e-mail arrived offering a range of low fares to my stated destinations.

Despite the preponderance of US content, surfing the Internet is today's equivalent of the 19th-century Grand Tour. Instead of a steamer and a cabin trunk, the modern traveller needs only a computer and a modem to wander past the accumulated culture of a civilisation, gaining enjoyment as well as enlightenment out of the journey itself, with the diversions along the way.

NICK ROSEN

#### GUIDE TO THE WEB TRAVEL SITES

■ Yahoo Search engine (http://www.yahoo.com). Contains a section with links to many of the world's travel sites, including: Travelocity (http://www.travelocity.com). Guides and deals. Cyber Air Broker (http://www.airdiscounter.com). Guarantees lower-than-published fares. Order by e-mail, pay by credit card. Rough Guides (http://www.roughguides.com). As well as providing links to the full text of its travel guides. Rough Guides also have special sections on women's travel and music. Lonely Planet (http://www.lonelyplanet.com). Travel magazine format giving away small amounts of information to encourage visitors to buy its books.

Campus Travel (http://www.campustravel.co.uk). Low fares for the young and students. Personalised answers to e-mail inquiries. Knowhere (http://www.knowhere.co.uk). A street-by-street guide of the UK compiled by local people.

The Times (http://www.the-times.co.uk). Week-by-week travel from the Saturday and Thursday pages.

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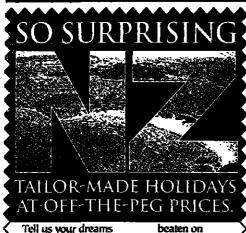
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#### **CHESS**

#### by Raymond Keene

THERE are times in chess when one man dominates the game to such an extent that he becomes the yardstick by which other grandmasters and champions are

In the early 1970s, Bobby Fischer's massive victories against such leading practitioners of the chess arts as Taimanov, Larsen and Petrosian made him appear almost superhuman. Such daring exploits capture the imagination in a way that the steadily consistent superiority of a Karpov or even a Capablanca cannot quite emulate.

More recently. Garry Kasparov is achieving the sort of ascen-dancy of which once only Fischer seemed capable. Despite some setbacks after his successful 1995 title defence against Anand. Kasparov has now triumphed in the two great tournaments at Las Palmas and Linares in such a way as to eclipse all other pretenders to his throne. His international rating, according to preliminary cal-culations, is liable to sweep to an unprecedented 2,820 — 35 points ahead of the pinnacle achieved by Fischer himself

In the very first round at Linares, Kasparov made it clear that he was out for blood when he crushed the world number two and his former challenger, Viswanathan Anand in a most remarkable clash. For most of the game, it seemed that Anand was on the offensive. Suddenly, though, Kasparov's apparently defensive posture was transformed and the startled Anand was blown from the board.

White: Anand; Black: Kasparov Linares, February 1997 Sicilian Defence

2 Nf3 e4 d4 Nc3 4 Nxd4 Nf6 6 Be2 e6 8 a4 Nc6 cxd4 a6 Be7

This variation was thoroughly tested in the 1998 World Championship match between Anand and Kasparov. On the whole, White made little progress there. In this encounter. Anand comes up with some new ideas to strengthen White's attack.

10 14 Qc7 11 Kh1 Re8

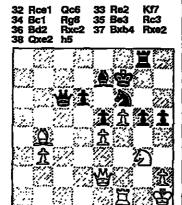
13 Qd2 Na5 15 Bc1 e5 Nc4 16 Nda2 exi4 17 Nx/4 Rbc8 18 b3 Ne5 19 Bb2 20 Rac1 Qc5 21 Qg3

Black has offered a trade of queens to alleviate the pressure, but White refuses, believing that his pieces aiming towards the black king can bring him a middlegame advantage.

22 Nce2 Nxf3 23 gxf3 b5 24 axb5 axb5 25 8d4 Qc6 26 Qg2 b4 27 Ng3 Qb5 28 Nxe6 fxe6 29 14 e5 30 Bb2 Rc5 31 f5

With this thrust, Anand underestimates Black's defensive resources. I would have preferred 31 fxe5 dxe5 32 Nf5, exploiting the pin in the g-file to place White's knight on a

dominating square. 31 . . . g5. This looks like pure defence, but Kasparov has seen that his defensive pawn wall on the kingside can, surprisingly, be transformed into a weapon of aggression.



An astounding blow. Under no circumstances should White capture this pawn but, rattled by the unexpected turn of events, Anand falls into a deadly trap.

39 Nxh5 Nxe4 40 Qf3 g4 41 Qg2 Rh8

White has lost material in broad daylight. If 42 Ng3 Nxg3+ when White cannot recapture while 42 fo Bf8 43 Ng7 also fails to 43 . . . Ng3+ when Black wins material.

#### **WINNING MOVE**

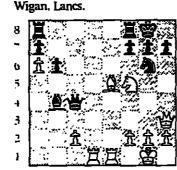
By Raymond Keene

WHITE to play. This position is from the game Kotronias - King, Watson, Farley and Williams. New York 1990. How did the Greek grandmaster Kotronias force a quick win, using his active forces on the kingside?

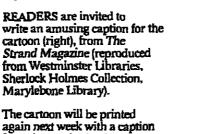
Send your answer on a postcard to The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's-in-thepublished next Saturday.

TIMES

Last week's solution: 1 Qxg6 Last week's winner: A. Rimmer,



**PUNCHLINE** 



from those submitted. Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption

London El 9XN. The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is

41, Weekend, The Times.

I Pennington Street,

Wednesday, March 5.





The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by L.Atkinson of Okehampton, Devon

#### **WORD** WATCHING

#### By Philip Howard

a. A ghost b. A Serbian icon c. An insect

VELLICATE a. To twitch b. Fan-shaped

c. To drop hints

IMAGO

DELTIOLOGY a. The study of river-mouths b. Palmistry c. Collecting postcards

QUAG a. A bog b. The Himalayan ox c. A quandary

Answers on page 21

#### BRIDGE

#### by Robert Sheehan

YOU probably know how unsound it is to double a Grand Slam, unless you think it is going several off. For that reason duplicate players use a double by the leader's partner to ask for an unusual lead. But what about a double by the man on lead? Consider a non-vulnerable majorsuit grand slam at rubber bridge; if it is a question of one off or making. you gain 50 by doubling if it goes down, but if they redouble they gain about 700 if they make it.

So for the double to be sound you have to be 14 to 1 on to beat it. It's not as bad at teams, but you still need to be about 6 to 1 on. Now have a look at this hand:

Dealar North Love all IMP's

**⊕83** 

**+ 52** 

**♥Q42** 

**≜ A J** 10942 ¥A753 ψQ ₩ E 7 **♦K1097** ♣AK10865

**▼KJ10986** ◆AQJ53

1. 'Splinter', showing a singleton club and heart support. 2. Roman Key-card Blackwood. 3. Two aces

requiring a 2-1 trump break (78 per cent) or a successful guess if the trumps are 3-0. But what do you make of West's extraordinary double? Cohen clearly thought that no one could be insane enough to double a grand slam holding Qxx of trumps; after ruffing the club he played a heart to the ace, and had to lose a trick to West's queen of hearts.

without the queen of trumps. The

hand occurred in the trials for the

1995 USA team. South was Larry

Cohen, of 'Law of Total Tricks'

fame. Cohen bid Seven Hearts on

the basis that if North did not have

the king of diamonds he would have a six-card spade suit.

It is a good grand slam, only

Cohen might have got the trumps right if he had looked at the problem from West's angle. These are the two possible scenarios: 1. West has doubled because he has

a trump void, and suspects the trumps are breaking badly. (He cannot possibly be expecting the ace of clubs to stand up. As North's splinter bid shows second-round control, declarer must be void in clubs to proceed to a Grand Slam. West, a top-class player, would appreciate that point).

2. West has doubled with Qxx of

trumps, in order to ensure that the declarer would never play him for

that holding.

Doubling with a trump void would be very costly if the Grand Slam were solid. So the choice is between believing the highly improbable (the double with Qxx of trumps) and the virtually impossible (the double with a void trump). That is the reasoning that should have guided Cohen to playing West for the trump length.

#### COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

IF YOU want to improve your IQ. listen to Mozart. That is the message from Dr Gordon Shaw of the University of California's Physics department, who has looked at ways to stimulate the brain. He compared three sound sources -Mozart's Sonata in D major for two pianos, a relaxation tape and silence - and concluded that while listening to Mozart, adults undertaking IQ tests raised their score by an average of nine points compared to the other two tanes.

It's not just classical music that helps, additional research suggests that listening to pop music in-creases the speed and quality of response to problem-solving.

If you want to test your IQ then you need Mensa Mindbenders, a cerebral treat from Macmillan Interactive. With more than 500 brain-teasing word and number puzzles, plus assorted intricate mazes, the CD-Rom becomes increasingly challenging as your puzzle-solving skills progress. Eight fun tests, of varying difficulty and length, deliver instant readouts of your current IQ status.

The puzzles are presented in a clear, uncluttered fashion but least are the mazes, since

fiddle. It also responds slug-gishly at times, even though there's little multimedia wiz-

ardry to slow things down. Still, in addition to the puzzles, the title includes a reference library with intelligence-improving tips and, should your test results be sufficiently impressive, details of how to join Mensa. Now to the final review of

your love poems for Bill Gates, Charles Caleb Colton hailed imitation as the sincerest form of flattery. though Shakespeare, Ben Johnson, Robert Burns and others might be turning in their graves.
Peter Whitfield of New

Brighton, Wirral, turned to the Bard by setting off with: B Microsoft, what light through yonder Windows 97 breaks... Geoff Sewell of Solihull, West Midlands, found inspiration in Ben Johnson's To Celia (Drink to me only with thine eyes). Link to me only via 95, You said it would Bill Baird of Newport on Tay,

Fife, updated Robert Burns, opena h c d e f g h moving the cursor is a tiresome clicking beastie, Whit a panic's in Brian Naughton in Blackrock, to spend,

#### by Tim Wapshott



Competitors wrote satirical love poems to Bill Gates to win a camera worth £2,650.

my breastie. That ye might respond too hastie. To tremblin' finger. Apologies to Robert's younger sister Agnes came from David Stew-art of Heswall Hills, Wirral, who embarked on his entry with: O, my luv is like a mitherboard, Wi second level cache, O, my luv is like a hard disk drive. That viruses

Dublin, wrote: called Bill Gates Who lived in the United

States My love ever grows Since I purchased Windows And lost all of my hard-

drive space. Clifford Beck from Hove, Sussex, even wrote his covering letter in rhyming cou-plets, noting that: "He who hesitates, will never write a poem of love for Bill Gates." His entry reads:

When today in The Times I read of your wealth. Amassed by genius and not by stealth

The thought came to me and at once I knew That I was the right woman for you.

For you have brains and I have I'm not just a little cutie.

People will say I'm just after your Believe me I find that idea funny.

Things like that I rise far above. My feelings for you are only of

Remember that diamonds are a girl's best friend. Living with you will be so exciting,

That, of course, is why I'm writing.
With me at your side, when you think of bytes,

You'll rise to even greater When I've posted this letter at home I'll stav

Till you call me up, Bill, and name the day. Judging the competition has been a difficult task and, as always.

thank you to everyone who entered. Our three runners-up are Brian Naughton, Clifford Beck and Janet Guest from Woking, Surrey. The winner is Eric Speilman from Essex, whose entry was featured last week, alongside that of Janet. Eric's poetic licence earns him a fully automatic Polaroid PDC-2000 digital camera worth £2,650. It can be used with either Mac or IBM

compatible computers and comes with relevant software. Top Tip from Mrs C. Moore of Sheffield: "Recreate the thrill and anticipation of trying to connect to the Internet by continually teledialling from."

#### THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

#### ALL CLUES are normal and lead to answers of length indicated. answers each have a common feature (appropriately different for each answer) which, taken as a group, should sugges a generic set. Once identified, the 14 individual members of the set should be substituted (one per light in clue order) for the generic feature before entry into the diagram. As a result of this process, two other answers also require modification prior to entry. None of the modified answers is a word in Chambers, which is otherwise recommended, together with any decent musical reference book or record shop.

ACROSS I've half an inclination to train one student joining eg.

Mensa (4) See maths centi struggling with undefined concepts (10) Plumage, when ruffled, is spoilt (S) Red student at last joins Cambridge college (6) Net margin changes around start of economic recovery (10)

Twist colleague's arm to forget morning following US truck 13 One with violin follows endless 'Prelude' with 'Romana' (5) Before start of day, street's subject to curfew [5] Valiant learner-driver gets RAC out in patrol vehicle (8, 160

20 The heads of Australia behave unscrupulously, buying property (8) It's wise in a biblical city to be a religious traditionalist (6)

Six months' pay in Scotland — one small coin (4) One involved in religious drama (4) See children's ignorant drawing in colours (6)
"We devise silver liming for reactive substance" — top

scientists (9) Solemn person in black, one with hit of money held in glove (II, two words)

Swarming like fish coming to shallow water (8)

0

It could be stup-go for frequent flyer (8)
Trick makes gin rummy (8, hyphen)
Cruel knife's slow, getting length stuck in (9)
This name is one to do with an Egyptian deity (7)
Contest charge — it's plann one must be released (8)
One needs small coin to get in WC — relax! (8)

М

0

No 3399: A Musical Offering by Bandmaster Horsehair band for training horses (8) Double Diamond (maybe)'s in shortly - it's instinctive to swallow that (10)

> What's cavered by sock? See gents mailing list including pair (14. hyphen)
> One of the cardinals stops church organ (S)
> Direct and impenetrable (not half) (4)
> Buling oil — not a southing liquid (b)

Name bird on top of tree (b) in computing one needs to start with pictorial program

access (4) Tope? It's bad to get drunk around an oven (6 Parisian priest achieves divinity after training (4) Rocket, perhaps, gets me iname with excitement (ii. hypher Europe's about to be embroiled in some French law (6) School head keeps one in for being intentionally smelly (8)

I get man caught out in the covers (7)
Pity's hard when confronted with routine (4) Statesman with a quill (5) Souland's all depressed with English on fire at Murraylield

12) Is evening when it does? (4) Lunar storms, eclipsing radius, or something close to that 23 Grove is shut? That's wrong - see right inside (5)

Big ship, say, listing — it's right to go amidships (6) Blair now can't do without the hard element in Scotland (4) In diamonds – four off – misplayed (4)
Like the sun when shining, maybe, revolving around endless inner fire (9)

There's resistance to a monarch leading a life of lechery (6)
Caesar's force, taking Italy on — a vivid concept (6) Felt on top, beetrout's not too cooked (5) More mean to dine at Maxim's — I should be included (7) With poetic muse failing regularly, what I produce is bitter

42 Naval warrant-officer covering most of European war zone

## 12 33 45 46

LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3399 in association with Waterstone's

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Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3399, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, March 13.



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# CROSSWOR No 1030

1 Ludierous (7)

show (5)

6 A heax (3-4)

(6-5) 14 Tropical storm (7)

3 Association (11)

4 Get in the way of (6)

7 Church council (5)

10 Approve unquestioningly

16 Artilleryman's skill (7)

17 Swindle, sheep's coat (6)

18 Wicked city (Gen. 19) (5)

2 Flier: experimental TV

ACROSS 1 State headed by President

5 In addition; a bonus (4) 8 Ceremonial gunshots (5) 9 Ideal of excellence (7) 11 Piece: used teeth (3)

12 Stuck in old ways (9) 13 Obtain with menaces (b) 15 Malaise after long flight (3,3)

18 Oedipus Rex playwright (9)

20 Make supreme effort (2,2.3)

19 Achieve (3)

19 Freischütz composer (5) 21 Stroll (5) 22 A religious (4) 23 State of risk (S) SOLUTION TO NO 1029 ACROSS: 1 Foist 4 Cascade 8 Inviolate 9 Oil 10 Gel 11 Gun-

powder 12 Pleas 13 Tinge 16 Grow out of 18 Ark 20 Sun 21 Institute 22 Surgeon 23 Exact DOWN: 1Fling 2 Involve 3 Thought Police 4 Cranny 5 Stepout of line 6 Avoid 7 Enlarge 12 Pegasus 14 Niagara 15 Strain

17 Owner 19 Knelt

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#### Solution to No 3396 Pub Crawl by Aragon As the preamble suggested, all across lights

between 12 and 3pm were to be anagrammatised to form drinks; similarly, all lights after 8pm were to be anagrammatised as pub names: these anagrams may transcend the "bars" of the original entries where there are no interver unchecked squares belonging to down lights.

All down lights, or parts of lights where applicable, were to be entered in jumbled form, except from 4pm to 7pm, with the symmetry of the down lights/horizontal bars to be maintained.

Original Across Lights

12 num: CATE; RIDES; KAI. 1pm: SAMITE; COALED. 2pm: REGALS; DAME. 3pm: VERY; ION. Spm: LAT: EYE-WATER. 9pm: SORE: ALL. FOURS. 10pm: FEEL; SEQUENCE. 11pm: STOLE, WINNER.

The winner is L.Paterson of Fordingbridge, Hampshire. The five runners-up are: W.Hart of Brentwood, Essex: D.Jennings of Manchester; S.Gibbs of Bedford; R.Cocksedge of Middlesex; J.Gill of

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VAL DTSERF Bergin: 15/3 & 5/4. Les entered chalor, an-cultar, aki to/from, log fire, qualet location. Broch. 02428 656719.

VAL D'EERE, St. Foy, apts/chaler, Xmms/New York onwards. Tub 01773 853300/mx #553311

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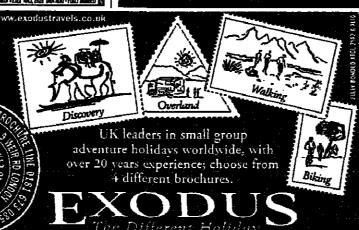
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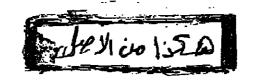
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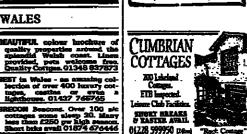




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**SATURDAY MARCH 1 1997** 

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The "Pink Panther" Aston Martin Vantage stopped the traffic when it first went out



Most Rolls-Royce customers choose deep blue, but a Saudi princess insisted her Bentley must match her scent bottle top



When Lennon went psychedelic Rolls-Royce would hardly raise an eyebrow today

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t is one of the most powerful cars in the world, a 170mph muscle-bound monster that swells a hairy-medallioned chest ... at least, it would if it wasn't pink. As pink as a Fifties Cadillac, as pink as Lady Penelope's Rolls-Royce in Thunderbirds, as pink as That Panther, Inside, the finest Connolly leather in black ... with pink

Prosperous customers have always enjoyed the privilege of their own special liveries, but this Vantage is by far the most striking car Aston Martin has ever been asked for. And it graphically demonstrates that carmakers now will fulfil any wish or whim of a customer, whether they want to paint their car every colour in the rainbow.

Rolls-Royce, that then imperious maker of models for the rich and the gentrified, was shaken to its roots when ex-Beatle John Lennon took the paint palette to his Roller and numed it into a mobile monument to psychedelia. These days Rolls-Royce is less conservative and there is barely a blush on the management

floor, even when a livid purple appears on the order book as it did recently.

recently.

Volkswagen is using colours to attract buyers, its most imposing colour scheme the Harlequin Polo with its squares of red, yellow and blue. In fact, these days Henry Ford — who once said customers could have any colour so long as it was black — would be forced to tell his customers they could simply have any colour.

Aston, for example, used to offer eight standard colours. Today the range is without limit. The company will even match the colour of an item of clothing, a pair of shoes, a fashion accessory, a flower, a shrub. If the match cannot be found among industrially available paints, Aston itself will mix the colour. The pink for the Vantage was one such unique blend.

The company has become used to special paint colours requested by customers for the DB7. Almost a quarter of them want something unusual, but most purchasers of the firm's mighty V8 range ask for deep



Harlequin Polo, Volkswagen's colourful customer attraction

blue, followed by green or silver. So who wanted the candyfloss-coloured coupé?

Vantage chassis number 70171 is shortly to be delivered in all its glory to a middle-aged German lady who placed her order through Aston's Munich dealer, Auto Konig. No name, of course, or any other details – customer confidentiality is a

sacred trust. But she is surely no shrinking violet.
"During the 15 weeks we have spent building the car it has provoked enormous interest with everyone working at Newport Pagnell," says manufacturing operations manager, Ian Calnan. "Throughout the factory it has

become known, almost inevitably,

as the Pink Panther. But this was as nothing when compared with the reaction when we first drove it on the road — it stopped the traffic."

Mulliner Park Ward handles special orders for Rolls-Royce, including once being instructed by a Saudi princess to paint her new Bentley exactly the same purple as the top of a perfume bottle.

"And she meant exactly." says

"And she meant exactly," says Brian Hishon, a Mulliner executive. "She had a second identical bottle and warned us that if the paint did not match perfectly she would decline to accept the car. We found the perfect match, the customer was happy, and by all accounts the car looks absolutely stunning against the desert background."

Another satisfied Crewe customer

Another satisfied Crewe customer was the aristrocratic European woman who produced a small piece of apricot-coloured fabric from a favourite frock and asked the company to match it.

The majority of Rolls-Royce cus-

tomers specify deep blue. Even among the wealthy, it seems the wish to remain anonymous on the road applies in most cases. Psychologists say that 30 per cent of car buyers at all social and financial levels prefer to motor inconspicuously.

hoice of colour is said to reveal much about the chooser. Red traditionally denotes energy, passion, action, and in some cases aggression (research in Germany suggests that red cars have more accidents pro rata than any other colour, but possibly because they become the least visible in half-daylight and under certain street lighting).

Yellow suggests outgoing optimism, while white, silver and grey all denote rationality. Brown is said to represent toughness and durability; blue means understatement, depth, correctness and silence; black suggests authority, social standing, respectability and discretion; and green reveals level-headedness and

And pink? An extrovert nature, also warmth and sentiment — attributes no doubt widespread among well-off German ladies.

Henry Ford's
dictum that customers
could have "any
colour so long as it's
black" came about
because black enamel
was the only paint
that would dry quickly
enough to keep
production lines he
installed in 1914

■ Duco-pryoxylin
paint finish — cellulose
— was first
standardised on the
Oakland range
introduced in Pontiac,
Michigan, in 1924.

Metallic paint was invented by accident in the US in the late 1920s when ball-bearings broke up inside a paint-grinding machine.

"pearlescent" finish was seen on a Detroit-built Graham-Page model exhibited at the 1930 New York motor show. The effect was achieved by a compound of fish scales under a clear larguer.

British Racing
Green emerged after the
Le Mans successes of
Bentleys in the late
1920s. The dark green
livery was adopted as
"British" more or less
by unspoken mutual
consent.

consent.

When the
Mercedes W25 racing
car weighed in for the
1934 Eifefrennen at the
Nurburgring, it was
5lbs too heavy. When no
component suitable
for removal could be
found, a mechanic
suggested stripping the
white paint. The
weight was saved and a
single coat of silver
paint was brushed on to
the aluminium body
— and the Silver Arrows



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حكذا من الأصل

BEFOR AT THAT OF CAME TO BRESS HACKHINGS WAS DEFINED THEMSELD BLATTS IN TAIN HIC WAS AND TWELVE MODIFIED BOOM STAND LINED LETTERS AT 172 SACH VEHICLE OF THIS MODIFIES A DAY

What it says on the clock could well be untrue - but may be irrelevant if you're buying second-hand. Today's cars are long-distance runners

### This idea is miles behind the times

car for sale, low mileage. one careful lady owner. Recently in a newspaper I saw an advertisement along those lines which added: "Only used locally, school runs and shopping. The seller obviously did not know that a car confined to such purposes was unlikely to be high on anyone's wish list for engines and gearboxes work harder on

short trips than long ones.

Not that we should blame the seller. All sectors of the car industry are obsessed with mileage. "Average mileage" is a mantra chanted by car dealers the world over, but their mantra is way out of date. Cars that chug about on local journeys are quite likely to be a poor buy. Conversely, cars that eat miles cruising our motorways in fifth gear are put

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

under very little strain and are therefore likely to be good buys. Yet the obsession with low mileage continues. Buy a new or newish car under one of the many schemes christened Options when Ford launched theirs and you will

age", usually 12,000 miles, and there will be a price to pay. amounting to several pence per mile, which comes off the guaranteed minimum future value. There was a time when mileage

mattered, but that was a long time ago. There is no reason why the modern car should not cover up to 200,000 miles with the need for little more than a couple of clutches, brake pads and an exhaust unit or two, yet the industry remains wedded to the notion that low mileage dictates value. Take a high-mileage car to a

dealer in search of a trade-in value but do not stand too close, otherwise you will be sucked in by the air rushing between his teeth as he catches sight of the odometer. This can turn into a particularly galling experience if you have had the

High mileoge.' Several feckless bloke owners

misfortune to stumble upon a crook, for you will be handing him a car on which he will make not one profit but two.

In Swindon this week a man who dealt in cars from his home was jailed for seven months for "clocking": he had reduced the mileage reading on seven cars by about 250,000 miles. The double profit is made up of paying a low price for the car because it has high mileage then selling it at a high price on the bogus grounds that the car is low mileage.

The trading standards people in Swindon brought this particular case and this week I spoke to Geoff Snowball, their senior trading standards officer. "Clocking cars is a nationwide epidemic," he said. "If prostitution is the world's oldest profession, clocking is the world's

He agrees with me that our perception of the importance of car mileages is way behind the times

and he is the proof of the pudding.

oldest car crime. And the reason is sheer greed, making a profit on both ends of the deal."

"I once had a Morris Marina that did 180,000 miles. My present car has done 80,000 and I expect it to do twice that before I need to change it. Modern cars way outlast their precessors."

Until the industry changes its attitude to high-mileage cars there will clearly be no reduction in clocking, which can be bad news for innocent people. Those who were deceived by the dealer in Swindon could sue him for misrepresentation, but this option is a double-edged sword. An innocent buyer who sells on a car that has been clocked could be sued by the next owner. Do not take my legal advice as gospel, but make sure you do not guarantee the mileage when you sell a car (unless you have had it from new) and the fact that you are not guaranteeing it should be put in writing.

And beware of MoT certificates whose shown mileage roughly matches that on the odometer: the first thing clockers do once they have fiddled the mileage is get a new MoT. Therefore, unless all previous MoTs are available, treat the mileage with suspicion. Better still, go to one of the dealers who specialise in high-mileage, usually ex-fleet cars. They will sell you an honest car at a sensible price.

#### **Stuart Birch** reports from Detroit on Lotus and Zytek's technological triumph

### Electric Elise sparks world interest

powered Lotus Elise sports cars are to be built. Although no details have been released, it is expected that they will be bought by European and possibly Japanese motor manufacturers who want to study the advanced British technology.

The electric Elise, details of which were first revealed in Car 97. is claimed to have "supercar" performance powered by two electric motors, with a 0-60mph time of about six seconds. Developed Zytek Engineering in col laboration with Lotus, the car should cost little more than the standard petrol-powered

The electric Elise was officially unveiled this week at the Society of Automotive Engineers Exposition and Congress in De-troit. Zytek director, Bill Gibson, said he was delighted with reaction: "It has been amazing. The show was about technology and the Elise proved to be one of its stars." He would not confirm the buyers for the first ten Elises but, is confident there is a market for this type of car. Zytek will be expected to build these examples of the electric Elise which he says is a fine technology demonstrator for Zytek. It is also a prime showcase for Lotus, taken over last year by the Malaysian-owned Proton company. after a long period of uncertainty about its future. In addition to being a carmaker, Lotus has a major engineering consultancy business.

The car will cost the equivalent of 10p a gallon to run plus the leasing cost of batteries. It has phenomenal performance, and this is a serious project that is attracting serious attention," says Gibson.

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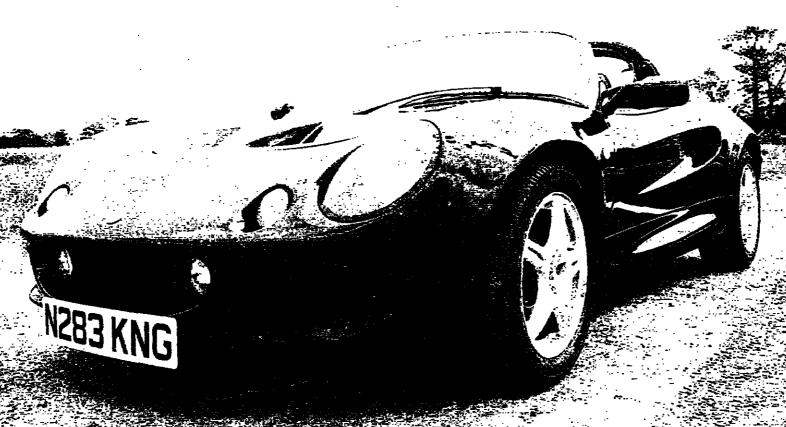
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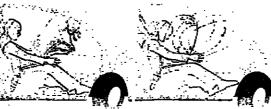
### Presenting a whole new bag of tricks

CAR AIRBAGS are about to get very smart, writes Stuart Birch. Delphi, the American automotive components and systems giant, is working on bags that will adjust their response according to the position, weight and size of the seat occupant. Since 1986, it is believed

that at least 52 people — 32 of them children — have been killed by airbag deployments in the US, apparently because they were "out of position" in the cabin or unbelted. But about 1,700 lives have been saved by them, says Delphi, which is part of General Motors.

Many manufacturers have now decided that the systems must become more subtle instead of always being activated with the same amount of force and must be better able to cope with people not wearing seat belts.

Mercedes Benz, for example, already fits sensors to its SLK sports car which detect when a child or child seat is



**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

■ PEUGEOT'S big load-carrying 400 estate is now on sale, starting with an on-the-mad price of £14.940 up to £18.325. The

model inherits the mantle of the 405, which was Britain's bestselling estate, buasting 1.74 cubic metres of luggage space. The 406 estate comes in five trim levels and with a choice of petrol or diesel engines and four-speed auto or five-speed manual box.

■ ROVER has knocked six weeks off the waiting list for its much praised MGF. Waiting lists stretched to 20 weeks pre-

Christmas as demand cleared out stocks. The company has built

20,000 cars so far, with half of orders for British Racing Green but Rover this week announced the introduction of three new

occupying the front passenger space. If the load detected is less than 12 kilograms then the airbag is de-activated. Lon Offenbacher, Delphi's director of product engineering interior and lighting, a world expert on airbags, also believes there is a need to

adjust their operation to cater for specific requirements such as an infant, small child, or small female. "We are trying to find different ways to modify the system to take care of these individuals." Despite the increasing so-

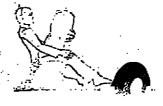
phistication of airbags, the smartest restraint system remains the seat belt, he says: "If we had people belt up and



Safety is more than a matter of inflation

put children in rear-facing infant seats in the back of cars, a lot of problems would be solved. But because people cannot

always be relied on to ensure that they, as adults and their children, are properly secured, smarter airbags are now a must. They need to detect not only if a child is being carried but if adults are leaning forward or even resting their feet on the dash-



board. Sensors would pick up their position.

In future, an increasing number of airbags are likely to be fitted in cars. At present, cars may have dashboard and side-mounted bags, but this may increase to include roof bags and bags for rear seat passengers. As the number increases, special air pressure venting systems

may be necessary. Sensors may also detect if a car is about to roll over and even if a serious accident is about to happen as fierce deceleration and anti-lock braking activation occur or if radar or ultrasonics signal an impending crash.

J. T. Battenberg III. Delphi Automotive Systems' president, says: "The technology of sensors and electronics have so much potential to make airbag deployment safer. For combinations of fast, slow, seat-up, seat-back, child, adult, you can change the deployment timing and deployment force of the airbag. We are constantly working on safety — it's so critical: it's something we are not going

to get off." As well as all this, there is also the added complication of the family dog, says Offen-bacher. As Car 97 reported last week, there is a strong case for dogs to be restrained in a car. "I would not recommend a dog to be carried in a car unless some form of restraint is used." he says.

So what about a "doggy bag" — an airbag just for the family pet? Offenbacher smiles: "Not right now." But in the ultra safetyconscious USA, nothing is

impossible.

Peugeot 406: five trim levels plus petrol/diesel option

#### colours and a £1,200 air-conditioning option. **AUTOFAX** by David Long and Les Evans N THE 1955 MILLE MIGLIA. TRAVELLED 500 MILES USING a Citroğu 2cv CAME IN 271st. MISSAUS LAURDEL AND ÚTLORUS A TYPICAL JAGUAR HOLLYWOOD STARS BODYSHELL TAKES STAN LAUREL SIX LITRES OF PAINT

#### AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

LONDON A306 Hammersmith Bridge closed both ways to general traffic for structural works. M4 Closed between junctions 1 and 2 for parts of this weekend for work on the

vated section. A3 Kingston bypass. North-bound lane closure between and Coombe Lane Junction

(A238). M1 Hendon area. Major roadworks at Five Ways Corner, with no access to or from the A1 Great North Way. A406 Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks on Angel Road (North Circular Road) over Lea Valley viaduct. A3212 Westminster Bridge. Close overnight and at weekends (9pm-6am).

SOUTH-EAST M40 Buckinghamshire Long-term roadworks with a contraffow between junctions 1a (M25) and 2 (Beaconsfield).

M27 Hampshire. Major roadworks with contraflow be tween iunctions 8 (Southampton) and 10 (Fareham, A32). A31 Ringwood, Hampshire. Major roadworks with contraflow for bridge strengthening work. M2 Kent. Inside lane and hard shoulder closed both (Faversham).

M25 Surrey, Restrictions and lane closures between Godstone and the A3 as widening work continues along the 19-mile stretch. A3 near Guildford, Surrey. Hogs Back (A31) roadworks at Stag Hill flyover.

● SOUTH-WEST M5 Bristol. Contraflow across Avonmouth Bridge with a 50mph limit. A30 North of Bodmin, Cornwall. Contraflow between

Helland and Higher
Carblake, with a 50mph limit.
M5 Gloucestershire. Major
roadworks with only one lane
open at the roundabout nction with the A419. M5 Somerset Northbound lane closure between junctions 20 (Cleveland) and 19 (Gordano services).

 MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA A1 Alconbury, Cambridge-shire. Reduced to one lane northbound during maintenance work at Alconbury Hills (A14/A604), as is the A14. A6 Leicestershire, Road-works and contraflow in both directions between Sawley Island and Hilton Hotel (M1 J24) in preparation for the Derby Southern bypass. A5 Staffordshire. Closed both ways between Gailey land (A449) and the M6 junction 12. Diversions via the A5, A460 and M54. A500 Stoke area, Stafford-

shire. Contraflow with only one lane each way between
Talke (A34) and Longport
(A527 Porthill).
A14 Between Newmarket
and Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.
Contraflow between Barrow Bottom and Higham.

NORTH A1M Durham. Roadworks with a 50mph limit at junction 63 (Chester-le-Street,

A167). M63 Greater Manchester Southbound entry slip road closed at junction 10 (M56). Expect delays through Gatley and Didsbury. Also mainte nance work between junctions 11 (Cheadle) and 12

(Stockport). M53 Merseyside, Bridge maintenance work at junction 2 (Birkenhead) with only one lane open each way on the Moreton spur. A19 Middlesbrough area. Major roadworks between Thomaby-on-Tees and North Tees Industrial Estate M1 South Yorkshire. Carriageway reduced to two lanes in both directions between Meadowhall and

Rotherham. M1 West Yorkshire. Major roadworks continue around the Leeds junction with lane closures and speed restrictions. Expect delays on the M1, M621 and Dews-

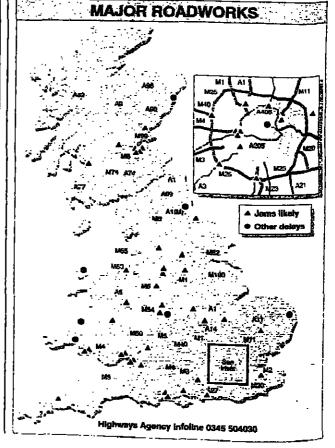
bury Road. SCOTLAND A96 Bridge of Don, Aberdeen. Roadworks affect ing traffic in both directions. A92 Tay Road Bridge, Dundee. Maintenance wo and southbound lane

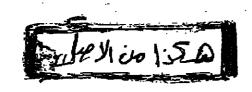
closures. M8 Edinburgh. Major roadworks with lane closures on roundabout at junction 2 (Newbridge Spur, M9). M80 Falkirk. Contraliow a Bonnybridge. A710 Straiton Road, Midlothian. Contraflow between Captains Road and the A720 city by-pass.

A77 Symington, South Ayr-shire. Southbound lane closure just north of the Bogend Toll. WALES A482 Aberaeron, Ceredigion. Upper Aberaero Bridge on South Road closed. Diversions via Panteg Road and the A487, where there are temporary lights. A48 Carmarthen, Tem-

porary lights and lane restric roundabout (A484).

A44 Between Llangurig and
Eisteddfa Gurig, Powy. Temporary lights for roadworks near Glansevern Arms. M4 Swansea. Reduced to one lane both ways between junctions 47 (A48/A483) and 48 (Lianelli). A4067 Mumbles Road, Swansea. Major roadworks beween Sketty Lane and Swansea rugby ground.





They were produced as the most basic private transport; now they are sold by Christie's. Tony Dawe reports

Bubbling along on three wheels

thusiasm for bizarre motors - and an appalling taste in music the bubble car song, Beep Beep, was the first novelty record I bought. To a steady beat, the song told of an increasingly irate motorist being pursued in his limou-sine by a bubble car, hooting as it tried to overtake.

As the limousine went faster and faster, the bubble car continued to follow, sounding its horn. Eventually, at 140mph, the tiny machine drew alongside, the driver opened his window and called: "Hey buddy, how do I get this thing out of second gear?"

It was a good joke and not quite as ridiculous as it seemed. For in 1960, as microcars grew in popularity as a cheap and fun form of motoring, Messerschmitt, the leading makers of these unusual machines, produced a sleek four-wheel model capa-

ble of amazing and frightening speeds. Enthusiasts have The Tiger raced supercharged versions of the FMR TG-500. prices more popularly could be known as the Tiger, around cir-cuits at 100mph. as high as Last week I had £20,000 my chance to drive

arrived at Chris-London as part of the collection of 43 microcars to be auctioned next week. They belong to Bruce Weiner, a Canadian who made his fortune, appropriately, from bubble gum, then fell in love with the cars with a similar name.

The cars will be sold in individual lots on Thursday and the Tigers are expected to fetch the best prices, possibly as high as £20,000. It was not surprising, therefore, that Malcolm Welford, Christie's motor car expert, failed to share my enthusiasm for emulating the feats related in that old song recorded by The

Playmates. When I arrived in Nine Elms for my test drive, the red store and the black Bubble Top sat in the showroom with a flat battery. Welford and his colleague, Jonathan Procter. reluctantly unscrewed the torpedo-shaped back of the car and fitted another 12-volt battery. They then discovered the

car was out of petrol, so an assistant was sent down the road to the nearest garage

Finally, when the car was wheeled out of the showroom. the starter motor produced a whirring noise but the twin cylinder engine refused to fire. After another hour tinkering with the Sachs-derived engine, rain began to fall and Welford and Procter pushed their showpiece back under cover, promising prospective buyers that Weiner's own mechanic would arrive shortly to make sure all 43 bubbles really were in working order.

We had better luck with a bright red Messerschmitt KR-201 Roadster, still an eyecatching machine, although only capable of more modest speeds. It pottered unsteadily along the busy roads with the handlebar steering producing jerky results. Executing a right turn proved increasingly difficult and painful as the knuckles of my left hand wedged

against the windscreen. Visibility was excellent, especially with the claustrophobic canopy wound down, but I wondered whether some of the Parcel Force lorries and security vans roaring past actually saw the car.

The Roadster tie's motor showroom in was introduced in 1958 in the middle of the bubble car boom which extended from the early Fifties to the mid-Sixties. Most were made in Germany to provide basic transport for a nation recovering from the war - by companies which had played a more menacing role in wartime: Messer-schmitt, Heinkel and BMW.

"They were cheap to run, easy to park and in many countries attracted very little tax." Welford said. "They might have become more popular but for the invention of the Mini in 1959.

"Faced with the choice of a cramped two-seater with three wheels or a car with four wheels and capable of carrying four passengers, most

opted for the Mini." As the microcars disappeared from our streets, they became collectors' items. More than 150 are on show at a museum in Story near Frankfurt, but Weiner's is thought to be the largest private collec-



Dawe in a Messerschmitt KR-201 Roadster: "Visibility was excellent, but I wondered whether some of the Parcel Force lorries and security vans roaring past actually saw the car-

tion. It includes an Inter Berline which looks like the cockpit of something the Red Baron might have flown - but on wheels - and was made in 1955 at a French aircraft factory; a 1973 Bond Bug with a four-cylinder Reliant engine which was Britain's contribution to the fad; and a familiar BMW Isetta.

hey have such character and some of them are really en-Weiner said. He has seen them all restored to the last nut and bolt but has decided to sell because his hobby was taking up too much time and money.

"We expect the sale to attract a great amount of interest." Welford added. "We are expecting buyers from museums. microcar enthusiasts and those who cannot resist the cars' intriguing looks. If you want to entice people into your showroom or have a

talking point in your home or office, there can be nothing better than a bubble car."

The machines have certainly attracted more than a second glance in the Jack Barclay showroom which Christie's use, positioned as they are among a collection of glittering Rolls-Royces, I sat at the wheel of most of

them, including a 1958 Rollera single seater which ressembles a dodgem car, and decided that the extremely rare Vallee Chantecler, almost circular in shape, looked more my style. Sadly, it proved virtually impossible to climb into. I had to bend under an incoveniently placed bar above the window and try and curl my feet

behind the steering column. After aggravating a cartilage injury, I settled for standing up in the damn thing for the photographer's benefit. While I am sure the sale will be a great success, personally I shall be looking for a 4x4 auction somewhere next week.





Dawe stands tall in a Vallee Chantecler as Malcolm Welford, Christie's car expert, tries to start a Messerschmitt Tiger

### A definite improvement on a fine

Brian Pedley on

an alternative

to prosecution that makes

errant drivers

more careful

ach of the 15 men and women had a haunt-ingly familiar tale to tell. The experiences ranged from the embarrassing to the recurringly frightening. Rosanna Cottey's testimony

was typical. "I was driving my oldish Ford Orion through Sidmouth one Saturday afternoon," recalls the 45-year-old dental nurse. "I glanced to one side for just one or two schoods, and ploughed right into the car in front. My car was a write-off."

.Then there was Philip, 22, whose carelessness caused two other cars to crash off the road. John, a farmer in his sixties. recounted a skirmish between an encoming car and his truck. A live bull was riding with him at the time.

There was a time when all such motorists would have been prosecuted for driving without due care and attention. But a growing number of police areas now offer opporunities to escape the wrath of the court - and become safer drivers into the bargain.

In a scheme conceived in Nottingham but pioneered in Devon since 1991, "due care" offenders are offered re-education and retraining as an alternative to prosecution. The delegates, as they are known. must spend £85 on confronting their own failings in front of others during one-and-a-half days of driver improvement.



Devon Drivers Centre instructor Malcolm Fortnum puts Rosanna Cottey on the right road to safer motoring

Should they reject this once-ina-lifetime invitation, prosecu-tion will inevitably follow. A conviction for "due care"

usually carries an average fine of £120, together with three penalty points. Cottey, her driving licence already be-smirched by two convictions for speeding, had no qualms about accepting the written offer from Devon and Cornwall Police. But driver improvement is no soft option, she says. "When you arrive, you're there with people you've never met before — and you feel like you're in a

detention class." Drivers spend the greater part of each course behind the wheel, with other previously errant motorists looking on from the back seat. The disadvantage of taking people to court is that it doesn't do anything at all about driving ability," says Malcolm Fortnam, one of a team of professional instructors at the Exeter centre. "People leave the court aggrieved at being prosecuted. But doing it this way, they go away feeling quite positive."

Police forces and road safety departments in Shropshire, Hertfordshire, Lancashire and Hereford and Worcester have all copied the Devon project. Gloucestershire, Cambridgeshire and Merseyside are also to about to launch courses, as will London in the near future. Last month, the county-

council-run Devon Drivers

Centre was recognised with a Prince Michael Award for its

special contribution towards

third by the year 2000. "Drivers are just accidents waiting for somewhere to happen," Fortnam says. "The biggest problem is complacency. Bad habits can go unchecked for a very long time because the right conditions and circumstances haven't occurred."

road safety. Driver improve-

ment is now a key element in

the Government's drive to

reduce road accidents by a

Many candidates arrive at the centre still scarred by their experiences, even afraid to get into a car again. "My accident happened was in the middle of the High Street, with everyone coming to have a look," recalls Cottey. "The man in front just went back in his seat and kept very still. I thought, 'My God, I've killed him...' I shook afterwards. It was the thought

of what might have happened. When your car's written off, it can be replaced. But a human

By the end of this year, some 3,000 people will have taken part in driver improvement in Devon. Initial research indicates that the likelihood of a candidate being involved in another accident appears significantly reduced. A more detailed survey being undertaken by the Department of Transport may well substantiate the Devon findings.

"I've spoken to people who, even three years on, continue to think more about their driving, says Devon Drivers Centre manager Marion Deacock. "We are the practical arm of road safety. We don't just offer guidance. We get to the heart of the problem.



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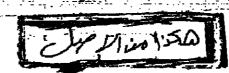
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Paul Wilkinson finds the A180, officially Britain's most boring road, less than exciting, but knows worse

## A sleepy drive to Grimsby

oute 66 or the Grande Corniche it certainly is not, but the stigma of Britain's most boring road now officially attached by the Government's Highways Agency to the Al80 seems a trifle unfair. Only 13 miles from start to finish, it seems hardly long enough to warrant such an epithet. Surely the Al in south Yorkshire is a better candidate, or what about the M25? There are whole sections in Surrey where embankments capped by wooden palisades must put it in the world top 10

of least interesting drives. True, proximity to music hall jokes such as Scunthorpe and Grimsby does the Al80 no favours, but at least you can whizz down those baker's dozen miles in north Lincolnshire in almost as many minutes. And there are always the oldfashioned delights of Cleethorpes at the far end.

The Al80 is a fast, arrowstraight stretch of dual carriageway mainly populated by a huge fleet of artics heading either for the oil refinery and container port at Immingham on the Humber estuary, or the frozen food factories of Grimsby six miles down the coast. It slices through the sparselypopulated flatlands along the southern bank of the Humber, across ground which a century ago swallowed travellers in its salt-marshes and is still crisscrossed by a score of drainage

The ground is so flat that further west where its big brother the MISO crosses the Trent, it has to take a run up half-mile long embankments to achieve the necessary clearance for shipping on the river beneath. Where there is a slight rise in the topography the builders have chosen to cut through, reducing what limited view there is to banks of grass and scrub. There are no peaks from which to examine the surrounding countryside or troughs for you to sharpen the senses with gear changes. The view is unstimulating.

The AISO begins in a cutting where the M180 ends. The only building is the universal red brick and pantiles of a Little Chef. The next one you end is signalled from some uncharted areas.



Alexander Carroll: "I reckon it's all an insurance con'

Anthea Dyson: "I'm sure the road noise cannot help"



distance by the unlikely Italianate redbrick Victorian water tower in the fish dock.

In between there's a rare glimpse of an ordinary looking farm building or two, a few pylons, a couple of small woods and lots of green fields. Midway there is a brief skyline of chimneys at the Immingham refinery two miles north. At night on this unlit carriageway it's a rare reminder that civilisation is not really too far away.

After the horly-burly of the motorways in the industrial heartlands of west and south Yorkshire, there is a tremendous feeling of isolation. Drivof a dozen metal sheds on an was fairly heavy; there was a way and bridge were completnew industry park. Journey's sense of going off the map into



Major yawns ahead, but at least you can travel the 13 miles through north Lincolnshire in almost as many minutes

The Al80 was originally conceived as part of a south Humberside motorway network, a fast route to Grimsby and, across the magnificent, if irrelevant, Humber Bridge, to the once bustling fish docks of Hull. The bridge was an election promise by Barbara Castle, then Labour Transport Minister, in the 1970s, in the hope of swinging a Hull byelection. But, with the kind of logic only a civil servant in the transport department can understand, the MISO stopped four miles short of the bridge and 13 from the rather selfindulgently titled new district

It was mile after ed that people realised what great foresight the civil ser-

of Great Grimsin.

vants possessed. The fishing industry at Hull and Grimsby was all but dead and their docks had declined dramatically. No one needed to travel that route.

Things have changed a bit since. Immingham is now a major European container port and ferry terminal and Grimsby is one of the EC's largest frozen food processors.

with a new, and exceptionally noisy, concrete dual carriageway: the Al80. It is chock full of heavy vehicles funnelling into south Humberside from the Yorkshire motorway network of the Mi, Al(M). MI8

built on the back of the fish

finger business. So in the 1980s

the motorway was extended

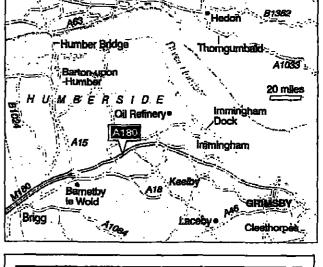
#### WHAT'S YOUR MOST EXCITING ROUTE?

BEFORE you nod gently off for 40 winks, stop and think: there must be one road in Britain that really is interesting, a route of beauty and stimulation. If you snow of a road that would keep Britain's motorists brighteved and bushy-tailed, tell us. Letters to Car 97. There's a bottle of champagne for the suggestion we like best.

them, and therein lies its danger. The BP Truckstop on the All36 Immingham turnoff is the first service station after Woodall on the MI or Knottingley on the Al, both around 50 miles away.

There is nowhere else to stop unless a driver turns off his route," says Anthea Dyson. 22, a cashier at the fuel stop. "I can understand why accidents happen. People need a rest, but by the time they get here they think they are almost home and push on, sometimes with fatal consequences.

"And I am sure the road noise cannot help. It is so incessant, so rhythmic, it must send people to sleep. That and the boredom of driving past endless fields, its just unrelieved green on both sides."



#### DON'T JUST BLAME THE ROAD

Agency ordered an investigation into the Al80 after a research team at Loughborough University discovered it had a sleeprelated accident rate twoand-a-half times the national average

Sleep or tiredness thought to be a factor in 10 per cent of all road accidents, and up to a fifth on motorways. But the tedium of the Al80, with long empty stretches punctuated by laybys on right-hand bends which the team judged to be dangerous, makes it a leading contender for Britain's most boring

However, Jim Horne, the team leader, warns that roads are not just to blame: drivers and cars are part of the equation that leads to dozy motorists nodding off

out into what was the middle

lane and forcing people to

"The road into Grimsby

m there is very uninterest-

brake suddenly.

or into other vehicles. "Carmakers think they

help by building quiet, comfortable vehicles," he says. "But luxurious cars are like mobile beds, lulling and relaxing motorists. Drivers need to take care when they travel because they do not realise how easy it is for tiredness to take

drivers should plan their journeys, but if they become tired, take a minimum 30-minute break. including a 10-minute nap, followed by strong coffee. Avoid driving at times of the day when the body will be struggling against sleep and if you become dozy while some distance from a rest stop, open the windows for fresh air and turn up the radio for stimulation.

Trouble starts when traffic crete road, a few bridges and reaches the end of the threelane motorway at the Al5

Truckers are not so scath-Humber bridge turn-off. Deing. "It is pretty boring, but I spite plenty of early warnings, can think of a lot that are as bad or worse," says Gordon Clayton, 37, hauling a 40ft many drivers fail to notice that they are switching to the twolane A180. Those in the inside trailerload of special plaster lane find themselves on the for use in the Potteries. "I have junction slip road and suddendriven this road for the last ly pull out in front of other seven years at least once a week and I have had no prob-"I've seen it scores of times," lems. If I get bored I just turn up the radio or talk to myself, says Clive Lockwood, 40, a garage manager from Grims-by. You see lorries weaving and if I get tired I pull over."

Alexander Carroll, a cynical Scot in charge of 20 tonnes of ice cream in his artic, was more specific: "I reckon it's all an insurance con. Someone thought up blaming their acciing. I dont know quite what it dent on falling asleep to avoid is, but there is nothing signifi- being done for bad driving cant along the way, just con- and others cottoned on."

### How to become a driver in the best of company

he search is on for the best company car driver in Britain, writes Alan Copps. First prize for the winning individual is an allexpenses-paid trip to this year's Portuguese Grand Prix, but it is the team prize that might in the end prove more valuable to the fleet manager who enters the winning trio of drivers.

For the firm which wins this part of The Times Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year contest will have the opportunity to send 12 of its staff on a one-day course with Drive Tech, one of Britain's leading driver training schools. They will learn the skills of defensive driving, reading the road and anticipating problems ahead. Research has shown that even after the briefest of training sessions the accident rate among fleet drivers can be reduced dramatically.

ast year's team prize was won by Bull Information Systems who have their headquarters in Brentford, West London, Chris Howell, managing director of Drive Tech says: The prize is open to all the company's drivers, not just the team that takes part. We visited Bull's headquarters, giving their selected drivers a twohour presentation in the morning and then spent the afternoon taking them out on the road.

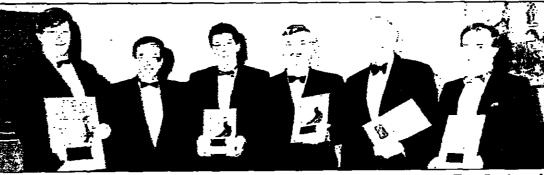
Two drivers go out with each of our instructors and take it in turns at the wheel. We find the presence of a second person in the car increases concentration, one of the key elements we try to emphasise. Good driving depends on concentration, observation and anticipation. Speed monitoring and following distance are the other main elements of the training run."

rive Tech, most of whose instructors are ex-police drivers, organise the heats of our contest, the largest of its sort, around the country. They put entrants through theory tests. a road driving examination and a tricky manoeuvrability course using the ball-and-sucer technique developed by Formula One

World Champion Jackie Stewart. Chris Howell says: "One of the great things about the competition is that it encourages fleet managers to look at the whole question of driver training." Surveys by Lease Plan, one of Europe's largest fleet management companies, have shown that, despite increasing awareness of driver training among managers, company car drivers still have an unacceptably high accident rate.

ne aim of our contest is to demonstrate that among company car drivers are some of the most skilled motorists. Those who cover thousands of miles in the course of their work should be better prepared to meet the hazards of driving than ordinary motorists, Fill

in the form if you want to help prove the point All you have to do is find a team of three in your company willing to face the stringent tests which Drive Tech have devised and get the endorsement of your fleet manager. Even if you don't win a prize you still stand a chance of taking part in the finals at the Silverstone Driving Centre.





Bull Information Systems winners commercial manager Guy Lambert, fleet manager Tony Brady, and drivers Tony Boulton, Gary Kemp and John Rick with Vahid Daemi of Lease Plan, second left

#### THE TIMES Lease Plan 🖸 Company Car Driver

## **Entry Form**

THE TIM	3.0
<b>Lease Pla</b> Company	2.4.3
Car Drive	er

Friday, 25 April

<ul> <li>About your</li> </ul>	_
Name of entrant	ger responsible for the country is a

 Nominated drivers Points on Forename licence (max 3 1 2

#### Competition rules

1997

3

The closing date for entiries is March 28 1997. Drivers must be nominated to enter. Only corporate entires will be accepted. Drivers must be nominated to enter the closing date for entires is March 28 1997. Drivers must be nominated to enter the control of the The closing date for entries is wardning the company to fleet. Drivers must be nominated by the director or sector manager responsible for the company, to fleet. Drivers must be nominated in teams of three. The entrant may also nominate himself/herself as part of the team. Companies can only enter one team. Companies must drive a company car or vehicle as part of their remuneration package. Qualification for the team: Companies award will be dependent upon a written less to be completed by the entrant at that team's regional heat. Employees of Lease Plan, DriveTech, the team: company award will be dependent upon a written less to be completed by the entrant at that team's regional heat. Employees of Lease Plan, DriveTech, the team: company award will be dependent upon a written less to be completed by the entrant at that team's regional heat. Employees of Lease Plan, DriveTech, the team: company award will be dependent upon a written to enter in the spirit of the competition, competitors who reached the final in two previous transports are upon. Nissan, News international and the first land date of the frame of the armoder forces and the like are not permitted to enter. A place in the regional consecutive years, specialist organisations such as driver training companies, police, the armed forces and the like are not permitted to enter. A place in the regional consecutive years, specialist organisations such as univer coming companies, police, the armed rordes and the like are not permitted to enter. A place in the regional heats will be confirmed in writing at feast ten days prior to the heat. In the event of over-subscription, qualification to the regional heats will be judged through a heats will be confirmed in writing prior to the heat. Feedback on each driver's performance random driver the promoted for the reserve driver will be called upon at the regional heat should exact the same because the confirmed in writing prior to the heat. mer telephone Questionned in the learn obes the quality me engage will be informed in writing prior to the heat, Feedback on each drivers performance make the property of the first three drivers be unable to compete. In the inlable after the competition of the first three drivers be unable to compete. In the will be available after the temperature the resolve time resolve times of the first three drivers be unable to compete. In the swent of a finalist not perigiable to compete in the final, the next highest scoring driver from the regional heats will be invited to compete in their place. The prize for the winner will be a special the for two to the Portuguese Grand Pro. The team compony price will be a driver training programme for 12 employees and the use of a Nissan vehicle for three months. Cash alternatives are not available. The judges decision is final.

#### Which venue?

Estree, Herts

Please select your 1st and 2nd choice location/date of regional heat (indicate 1 or 2 in box):

Macclesfield, Cheshire	Friday, 9 May	
Bracknell, Berks	Friday, 16 May	
Nottingham	Friday, 30 May	
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Gatwick, Surrey Friday, 6 June Friday, 13 June Coventry

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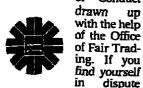
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The half-pint Thrust glass

■ BOOK signings are common enough, but the Thrust SSC team. Britain's land speed record contenders, plans something a little different - a glass signing. Richard Noble, holder of the land speed record at 633mph and Andy Green, the RAF Tornado pilot chosen to drive his new challenger, Thrust SSC, will be at Selfridges in London's Oxford Street from 2-3pm on March 8, signing a newly-marketed range of glassware inspired by the car.

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road crowd.

IT HAS one of the longest names of any car on the road, the Ford Galaxy MPV 28 CD V6 Ghia X 4x4, but it solves the dilemma faced by hundreds of motorists — whether to buy an MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) or an off-roader, writes Helen Mound.

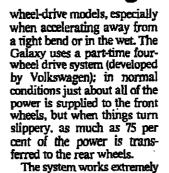
For years, people have bought off-roaders because they're big enough to swallow entire families, pets and all the associated debris of a household on the move. But, because they're built to be rugged, off-roaders are generally huge, heavy, slow and corner like a duck on ice.

The Calaxy 4x4 will undoubtedly be more successful than the last four-wheel-drive Not so the the new Galaxy people carrier sold in Britain. 4x4. Because its four-wheeldrive system is designed mere-When Renault tried to sell the Espace Quadra in the UK nine years ago few motorists were

In 1988 the whole idea of people carriers was still in its infancy and the addition of a four-wheel-drive option was a complication. Now, however, it looks as though Renault was just ahead of its time.

macho bull-bars or chunky off-road rubber, but you can't Ford expects the 4x4 Galaxy have everything. Instead it has to increase the appeal of its a creamily smooth V6 engine, Ghia and Ghia X models - the high equipment levels, seven all-wheel drive option is being seats and now four-wheel offered on these models only. The company hopes it will help drive; everything a demandimprove its one-third market share of British MPV sales.

Quite apart from broadening the appeal of the flagship Galaxys, four-wheel drive is a much better way of harnessing and distributing the 28litre V6 engine's 174bhp. All this power can become a handful in standard front-

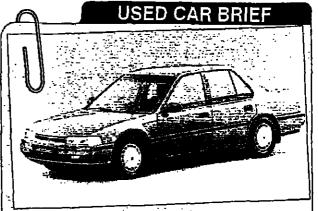


well and you don't really know it's in action most of the time. The giveaway happens the first time you power out of a greasy roundabout. Instead of the nose pushing wide and the inside front wheel scrabbling for grip, the big Ford will merely head off in the direction you intended. It's not a benefit you will truly appreciate until you've tried the same thing in a front-wheel-drive model. However, you will notice the 4x4's extra traction immediately when there's snow on the ground or if you live in a rural area where the roads spend most of the winter covered in

mud and slime.

There are some downsides Galaxy 4x4 ownership. While you probably won't spot a slight reduction in performance over the front-wheeldrive V6 model, you can't fail to notice an increase in fuel consumption — figures can fall as low as 15mpg if pushed hard. And should you enjoy changing gear for yourself, that's too bad, as the 4x4 comes only with an automatic gearbox. The automatic box shifts through the gears sweetly enough, but at times is reluctant to let you use all of the engine's horsepower unless you press the accelerator as hard as you can.

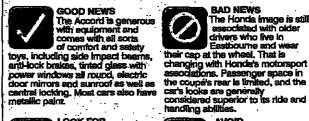
Make no mistake, this 4x4 is not an off-roader. But its fourwheel-drive system will keep you mobile in 98 per cent of British weather conditions and gives the V6 Galaxy greater stability in all circumstances. So before you splash out on an expensive, cumbersome off-roader, ask yourself if you really want to put up with the compromises.



HONDA ACCORD

Despite the Japanese badge, Honda's Accord saloon is British built.

Launched as a four-door in 1983, followed by the two-door coupe and U.S. built five-door Aerodeck a year later, this latest Accord is closely related to the Rover 600, sharing chassis and the floorpen which contains all the essential bits and pieces. The range is powered by four cylinder petrol engines in 1.8l, 2.0t, and 2.2l-litre form, as well as a 2.3l-litre 16valve, and a 2-litre turbodiesel.



LOOK FOR Top of the range LS and ES cars which are indulgent, offering cruise-control and electric seat adjustment. For performance seek out the 2.3-litre 158bitp SR; which as well as boot spoiler and headlamp washinge, will top 150mph where conditions.

sately allow, and cover 0-60mph is

The Honda Accord does well for safety and is rated above average in the Department of Transport rankings, on a par with the VW Passat, Mercedes 190 and BMW 3 Series,

and shead of the Peugeot 405, Nissan Primera and older Toyota REPLACEMENT PARTS

AVOID

Any Accord with an engine that sounds too rolsy. That spells trouble and hims at a previous owner who over-revied the car, it is also essential that the car should have been properly serviced and the carn belt changed according to the service guide lines. Brake judder could indicate warped brake discs. Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1993 2-litre Accord saloon, 2-fitre Accord saloon, costs a 55-year-old professional, male or female, living in Winchester with full no claims bonus, £196 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year-old male, with one year no claims living in south London pays £1,221, a similar female £1,010.

The Honda image is sti associated with older

associated with older drivers who live in Eastbourne and wear

(prices include VAT); Clutch assembly £175; full exhaust £440; catalytic converter £535; front brakepads (pair) £55; alternator (exchange) £350;

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Expect to pay around £7,750 for a 1993 K-rag 2.0i LS four-door saloon 2.0i LS tour-door saloon, £8,150 for a 94 L-reg 2.0 four-door saloon, £9,600 for a 93 L-reg 2.0i ES four-door saloon, £9,500 for a 94 L-reg 2.0i LS two-door coupé, £10,300 for a 94 L-reg 2.0i LS five-door Aerodeck , £11,900 for a 94 L-reg 2.2i ES two-door coupé and £12,300 for a 94 M-reg 2.3iåra SR 2.3-litre saloon.

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**PORSCHE** 



Like all Hondas, the Accord has eamed a reputation as a car that is reliable, well-built, and comes with levels of equipment as standard that are usually superior to cars offered by rivide as standard that are usually superior to cars offered by rivide as standard that are usually superior to cars offered by rivide as standard that are usually superior to cars offered by rivide and the standard that are usually superior to cars offered by rivide and the standard that are usually superior to cars offered by rivide and the standard that are usually superior to cars offered by rivide and the standard that are usually superior to cars offered by rivide and the standard that are usually superior to cars offered by rivide and the standard that are usually superior to cars offered by rivide as standard that are usually superi

#### FORECOURT

ROVER's Metro was a dramatic advance over the Austin version it succeeded, and the perky K-Series engine that powers the car always make driving fun. reports CAP Black Book

The Metro is often criticised for its lack of room for rear seat passengers, and for relatively high depreciation. The car also did not fare well in crash tests by the Transport Research Laboratory. However, dealers say that, long-term, this should not affect used Metro sales since economy and low running costs are more important factors for Luyers of very small cars.

Good buy is a 1994 L-reg

1.1-litre S five-door at around £4,000 with average mileage.

■ The Renault Espace offers barn-like interior space, combined with handling more akin to a saloon car. Eminently practical, it also maintains its value. The downside is that it commands very high forecourt prices second-hand. Engines can be noisy and the gearbox is not as

slick a- it might be. Good is the 2.0 litre TXE, around £8.500 for one of the last of the old models. Because dealer prices can be high, buying privately might be a good idea.

#### **GALAXY 4x4**

Engine: 2,792cc V6: 174bhp. 5,800rpm. Fuel economy: Urban 15mpg. extra urban 26.2mpg, combined 20.5mpg. Performance: 0-60mph in 11 seconds. Maximum speed 120mph.

Transmission: Four-speed automatic. Equipment: Seven seats, airconditioning, alloy wheels, roof rails, standard on both models. Ghia X also has CD autochanbger and cruise control. Options include passenger airbag (£300),

and parking distance sensor (£310). Price: Ghia £25.700, Ghia X £26.810.

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ON YOUR BIKE

### One ton in five seconds

For £9,500 you can outpace any car on a Kawasaki ZZ-R, says Paul Myles

peed isn't everything in a motor cycle, but speed is what the Kawasaki ZZ-R1100 is best at. For this monster storms to 60mph from a standing start in under three seconds. In less than another two seconds — where the law permits you to do it, of course the bike races to 100mph and in the time it takes most hot sports cars to reach 60, the ZZ-R is topping 150mph on its way to a UK-measured top speed of 173mph.

No car on our roads can touch that sort of performance, yet the Kawasaki costs only around £9,500. The bike's performance was nothing short of stunning when first launched seven years ago and is today just bettered by Honda's new Blackbird. The big Kwak has been the standard by which all other performance machines have been measured, and this on a motor restricted to 125bhp until last

The 22 extra horses now unleashed have little effect on the ZZ-R's speed figures, underlining the enormous extra effort required to notch up miles-per-hour the nearer one gets to the magic 200. The Blackbird needs all its 162bhp to break the 180mph barrier.

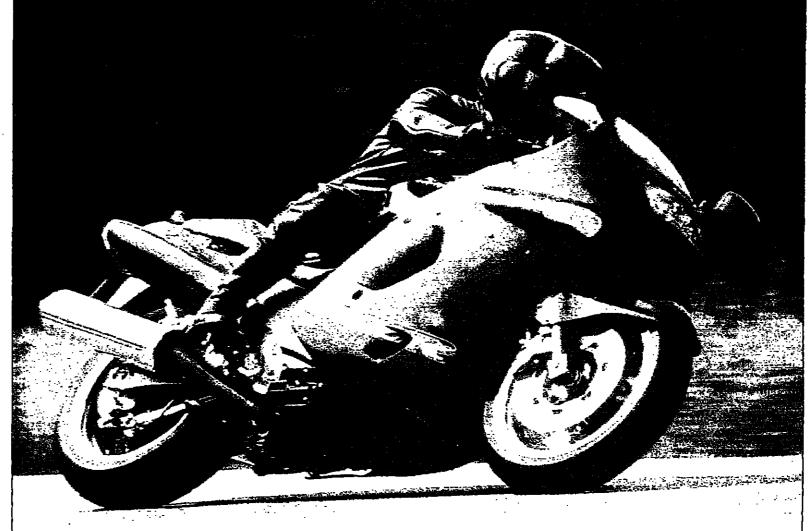
Despite the amazing performance, Kawasaki broke no new ground with the ZZ-R. The engine is a direct descendant of its GPZ900 of the early 1980s. Kawasaki says evolution has been its road to success and with the ZZ-R it is difficult to argue otherwise. A major reason for the

breathtaking speed is the wind-cheating fairing that swoops its way round the machine. Kawasaki claims a co-efficient of drag of just 0.30. less than many of today's jelly-

mould cars. Another special asset the Kwak employs is its ram-air system, which force feeds the engine with cool fresh air just when other engines are strain-ing for breath. Two scoops under the headlight inhale air at speed and compress it slightly before forcing the oxygen into the cylinders. The effect is like a turbo-charger sucking the machine forward as it hits its powerband just over 6,000rpm. Many bikes have copied the system, but I've never known the experience to be quite so shatteringly quick as on the 1100. It literally leaps forward as you hear the induction roar to a full-blooded howl.

Yet the ZZ-R is a big bike. tipping the scale at more than 500lbs. In motion, the weight disappears and the bike takes on its natural role as a sportster able to be flicked through tight corners unfussed and surprisingly agile. The machine is billed as a dual purpose sports-tourer, but I feel the emphasis must be on sport with a machine tailored for speed rather than comfort.

The riding position is a forward stretch and the footpegs are placed too high to allow very many enjoyable hours in the saddle. On the plus side, the position gives superb control and lots of ground clearance. The ZZ-R can be banked at crazy angles without a twitch, provided the



Kawasaki ZZ-R1100: evolution has been the road to success and the standard by which all other performance machines are measured

rider is easy with the gas. Snap open the throttle too quickly and the machine will lift its front wheel or spin the rear in the first three gears.

Kawasaki has also followed the sport fashion for six gears. The extra ratio is a redundant luxury, for the ZZ-R's huge spread of power means the rider can skip gears and still maintain arm-wrenching ac-celeration. In fact the bike pulls strongly from under 3,000rpm up to 6,000 which is when things really become frantic, firing the machine forward right up to and beyond its 11,500rpm red line. Set against the machine's

ZZ-R rider-friendly. Handlebar levers for the brake and clutch have four settings to suit small or large hands. The clutch is hydraulic, smooth and light to use, and the brakes require little more than a couple of fingers to achieve a full-blooded emergency stop.

nstruments, lights and mirrors are all typically Japanese, typically excel lent and well thought out. A bonus for the tourer are the four strap anchors under the seat, allowing baggage to be secured without bungie straps gouging lumps out of the paintwork. There are also sporting bent, there are many nice touches that make the two tripometers - one to log trips of up to 1,000 miles and

the other for extended journeys up to 10,000.

Running costs look good for, even at constant high speed. the ZZ-R returns more than 40 miles to the gallon of unleaded fuel. On the other hand, replacing the car-size rear tyre will cost a car-size £125 and 1 doubt the sport compound rubber will last beyond 5,000

moderately quick miles. ZZ-Rs come in either a dull burgundy or a neutral grey, both rather subdued colour schemes for such a storming

Pound for punch there can be few vehicles to rival the ZZ-R for the hedonistic pleasure of sheer performance in a remarkably civilised package.

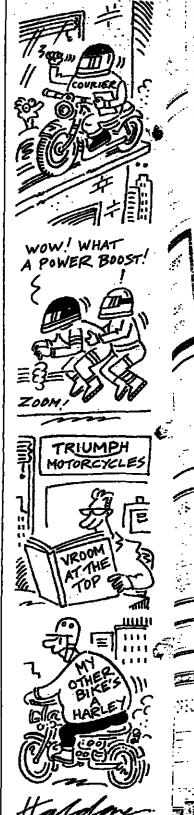
#### KAWASAKI ZZ-R1100

Engine: Liquid cooled four-cylinder, double-overhead cam In-valve 1052cc, producing 147bhp at 10,500rpm. Maximum torque of SI ft lbs at 8,500rpm.

Chassis: Twin-spar perimeter pressed aluminium frame with 43mm telescopic multi-adjustable front suspension and single Uni-trak multi-adjustable

Transmission: Six-speed gearbox. Chain final drive. Performance: 0-60mph in 2.9 seconds. Maximum

Price: £9,550 (excluding road charges of about £360). Insurance Group: 15 (with K-Care through Lowndes



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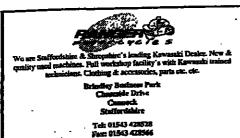
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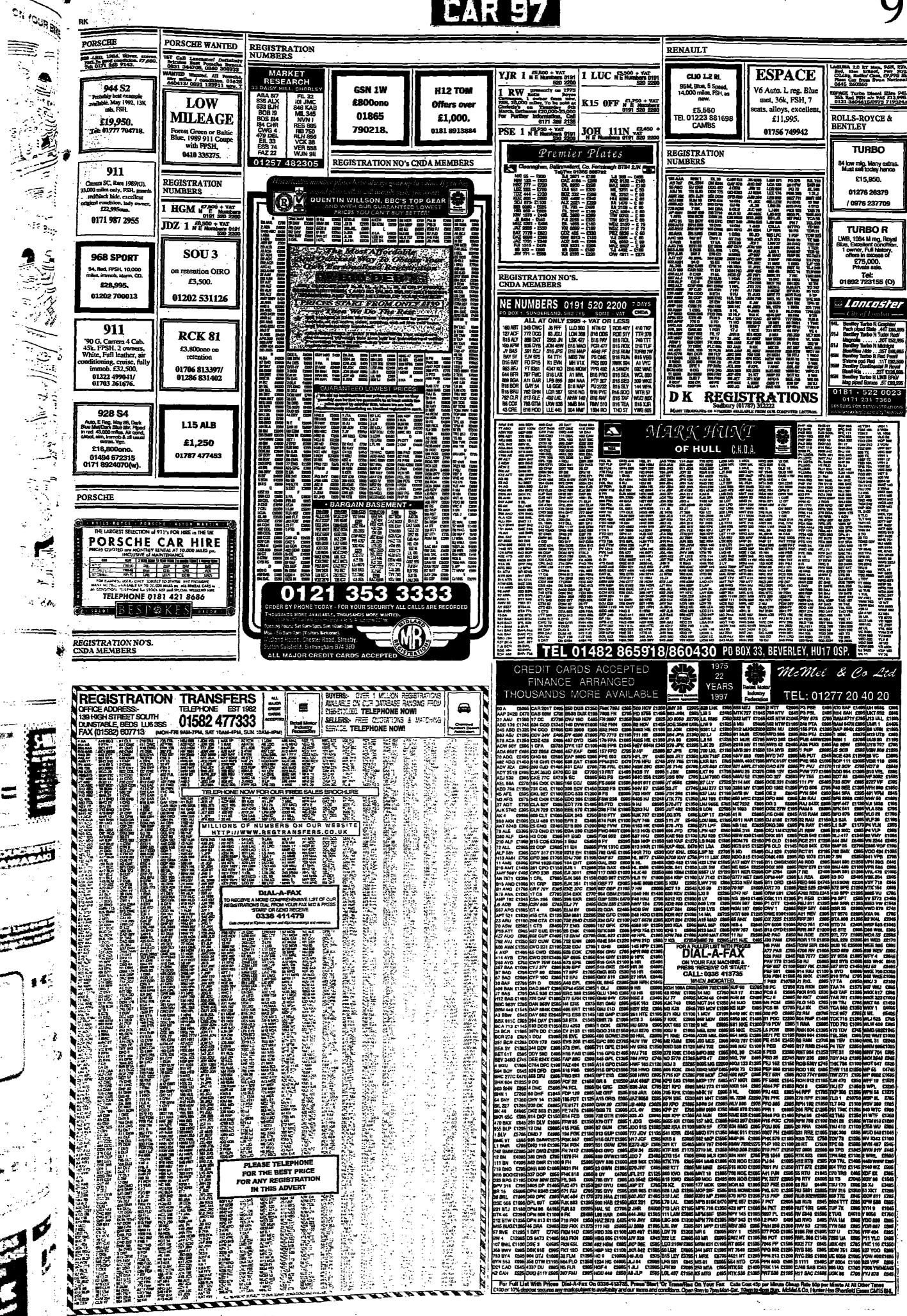
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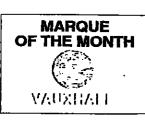
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### Bodies with fewer curves



Stuart Birch on how the Signum is shaping up

luxurious, high per-formance "lifestyle" concept estate car muscly shape of Vauxhalls to come. The hi-tech Signum will be unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show next week together with a three-cylinder version of the little Corsa, due on sale in Britain in May and promising average fuel consummtion as close to 50mpg as makes no difference.

The Corsa's new engine was used to power the MAXX future urban concept vehicle shown at Geneva in 1995 and its development for production underlines the fact that major car companies no longer just make one-off show cars but use their technology to create production transport.

So the Signum, with its almost militaristic looking functional lines, gives some firm visual clues to the way vehicles of this type will evolve into the next century, with a move away from today's soft. rounded looks. The next Astra, expected late this year, is likely to bear a family likeness to Signum, which has a foursquare stance very different from the Omega estate which it might one day replace.

Like the MAXX concept vehicle, the road-going Signum design study has plenty of advanced technology. including the automotive equivalent of an aircraft's "glass cockpit", with four displays supplying some information but, to reduce driver workload, the rest — air-conditioning levels, navigation data, radio/CD settings — is avail-



The three-cylinder Corsa, which promises motorists fuel consumption as near to 50mpg as makes no difference



The Signum, the shape of Vauxhalls into the next century

able only on demand. Signum's engine is a 24-valve three-litre V6 turbo-diesel with direct injection, developed with Isuzu, and is described as the first of its type and size. With 175bhp output. Vauxhall reckons the car would be good for 144mph, but should average more than 40mpg. The engine is likely to be in production within two years.

Vauxhall is part of General Motors Europe and the front wheel-drive Signum was designed at the company's Opel Technical Development Cen-

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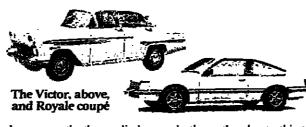
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tre at Russelsheim. It has some echoes of earlier designs from Russelsheim, notably the Opel Monza coupé, later sold in the UK as the Vauxhall Royale coupé. Now, Signum has emerged with just a modicum of Monza about it. Designers have categorised it as a 'lifestyle" estate rather than a no-frills freighter, but have given it powered adjustment

luggage space.
While the Signum is a possible future arrival in the

for its rear seats so they can be

quickly moved to increase



showrooms, the three-cylinder Corsa will be here by early summer, the first three-cylinder with four valves for each cylinder from a European manufacturer. And to complement this level of sophistication the car has benefitted from suspension tweaks from experts at Lotus.

The little 973cc engine produces 55bhp, enough to give it a top speed of 94mph with 0-62 mph taking 18 seconds, says Vauxhall. Advantages of three instead of four cylinders include reduced weight, improved packaging, lower friction and higher thermodynamic efficiency. All this makes 49mpg a reality for the combined cycle which means it is 15 per cent more economical than the least thirsty current Corsa.

Vauxhall and General Motors Europe were once among the most conservative of car producers in technical terms. They would sometimes overcompensate with styling so bizarre it might frighten a horse; the 1957 Vauxhall Victor proves the point.

But, in 1990, the Calibra daringly demonstrated how to break with traditional styling, even if there was a steady old Cavalier beneath its aerodynamic exterior. The Tigra underlined the company's design flair — as did the MAXX. So far, that has remained a concept, but the company is working on how it could produce the car in limited volumes.

### In harmony with a Mazda con amore

#### STEERING COLUMN

Conductor Jane Glover talks to

#### Alasdair Steven

ane Glover is one of Britain's most renowned conductors. She has been artistic director of the London Mozart Players and closely associated with both the Glyndebourne Festival and Touring Opera.

She was the first woman to be asked to conduct at the Royal Opera and is a regular with English National Opera. The Proms and with all Britain's leading orchestras. She conducts Gluck's Or-

pheus and Eurydice at the ENO on Monday followed by the eagerly-awaited Mark Morris version of L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato there in June.

How did you first learn

While I was at Wells Cathedral School in Somerset. There weren't many traffic lights in those days and we had to go to Minehead to practise.

What was your first car?

An Austin 11. It was about 15th hand and I just loved the little thing. I washed it every day until the dear thing failed its MoT. Bless it.

What car do you drive now?

A Mazda MX3. That, too, is very dear to my heart. It's my second Mazda in a row. It is extremely elegant to look at, and if I'm driving back after a concert, it gives me a feeling of occupying my own space.

Do you enjoy driving?

Very much. I just pile the frocks, the score and the schedules - along with the



Jane Glover and her Mazda MX3: "It's my own space"

back and tootle off.

What is your dream car?

I have it. As long as it performs and looks pretty, I

What is your most hated car? Anything unreliable; otherwise I don't have any major

What is your worst habit

If I get particularly involved in a piece of music on the radio that I may have just been recording or rehearsing - I have been known to suddenly bring in the horns as I pass a service-station.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

Aggression. Discourtesy. And, I have to say it, men are worse. All those flashing lights. Why?

Have you ever had any points on vour licence?

I did have some years ago, but they have now been wiped out.

occasional soloist - into the What do you listen to while you are driving?

> I push buttons a lot I adore Radio 4, but the reception is not always great. I love the plays and the chatter. I so miss it abroad and try to catch the World Service — which is a real friend - when I can. I do put on cassettes, but not that often. I love talking books. Coming home from a concert driving down empty motor-ways. I play jazz. It's greatly soothing and relaxing.

> If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Ban all heavy vehicles from the centre of cities during the day. Their unloading and parking on double yellow lines - let alone red lines - is one of the major causes of snarl-ups. And I would make lorries and buses keep in the "slow" lanes of the motorway.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

The Peugeot that drives through a forest fire. The filming and cinematography

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the time you can see signs of damage, it's already too late. Have you ever noticed that stale smell from the interior of your car? Cotton, wool, leather wood will all rot within a very short time if you allow them to get wet and that smell is talling you that your interior is wet.

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